MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iranian artillery fire killed 147 Iraqis on the Iraqi side of the Shatt al-'Arab, IRNA reported. According to an armed forces communique carried by Tehran radio, Iraqi forces sustained considerable losses during fighting on the Khorramshahr front.

An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio said Iraqi forward units struck at Iranian positions in the Khorramshahr area, killing 47.

Islamic Good Offices Committee Meeting -- The Islamic Good Offices Committee will meet on 6 June to discuss the Iran-Iraq war, Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti said upon his arrival in Jordan, Amman radio reported.

Upcoming Majlis Decision -- The Majlis will decide shortly on the possibility of escalating the fighting against Iraq with a view to advancing into Iraqi territory, the London paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reported. The paper added that an Iranian Foreign Ministry source, who confirmed this report, said there is opposition to such a decision. According to the source, some Iranian officials believe Iran should stop at its borders and be satisfied with regaining its territory. He also noted that the atmosphere with regard to the Islamic Good Offices Committee "has become more suitable than ever before."

Egyptian Comment, Denial of Meeting -- Judging from recent Iranian threats, Iran wants to cast its shadow over the Gulf and other parts of the Middle East, an AL-AHRAM editorial reported by Cairo radio opined. Warning that the Iranian leaders are adopting the same tone uttered by leaders who were so intoxicated by their strength that they brought destruction upon their countries, AL-AHRAM said Iran would do better to absorb the lesson of history and start searching for an honorable settlement based on right and justice. Iran can achieve its demands by diplomatic means now that it has proved its military strength, the paper added. According to MENA, AL-AHRAM also expressed concern that the Iranian forces will push toward Basrah and deploy on Iraq's borders with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, an official Egyptian source denied the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH's report that President Husni Mubarak recently met Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi for discussions on the Gulf War, MENA noted.

Iran

The Iraqi president and Iraqi Ba'th Party will have no fate except downfall and death, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in a message carried by Tehran radio on the Guards Corps anniversary. Were it not for the commitment of the Iranian forces to protect the innocent and their fear of destroying Iraqi property, "a fact which still inhibits them," they would have taught the Ba'th Party such a decisive lesson that none of the "deviated" governments in the region would ever consider opposing Iran, Khomeyni said. He warned those countries in the region which are trying to confront Iran by returning Egypt to the Arab fold that they are making a big mistake. Khomeyni added that even if, after Iran's final victory over Iraq, these countries repent and change their un-Islamic behavior, it is not certain Iran could accept their repentance. He urged them to stop conspiring against and confronting Iran before it is too late.

In another part of his message, Khomeyni warned the Arab governments of the region that by submitting to the Camp David agreements and the Fahd plan, they will bring upon themselves the lasting enmity of Iran. Advising them against being deceived by the rulers of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Oman, he asserted that if the Egyptian and Jordanian Governments had courage and consideration for human and Arab dignity, they would have saved themselves from the bondage of Israel.

Reaction to Haig Statement

Egyptian Welcome -- An AL-AKHBAR editorial reported by MENA welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's recent statements on the Middle East, asserting that Haig used the logic of facing up to the major challenges confronting the United States in the region. Haig's tone means that the United States is aware of the grave dangers in the Middle East and feels the need for a change in the course of events in the area, AL-AKHBAR asserted.

PLO, Iranian Hostility -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said that by presenting through Haig new peace initiatives to solve all the problems in the Middle East, the United States "exceeds the minimum limit of logic" because it bears responsibility for "pushing the situation in the area to the brink or to the state of a permanent explosion." The U.S. administration suffers from the illusion that its peaceful proposals can conceal the reality of its aggressive role in the region and make the ugly American face acceptable to Middle East states and peoples, the radio continued. The Palestinians, whose comprehensive rejection of the Camp David autonomy proposals has closed all doors in the face of that "plot," will continue to be the painful thorn in the U.S. side, the radio contended.

Linking Haig's announcement that the United States will play a more active role in ending the Iran-Iraq war with recent Saudi diplomatic activity and with UAE and Kuwaiti comment, IRNA said "U.S. imperialism is doing its utmost to fan the flames of war through its hired agents."

Syria

Several agreements between Syria and the USSR were signed by Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Damascus radio reported. The agreements will consolidate and develop cooperation between Syria and the USSR in all fields, according to a SANA correspondent cited by the radio.

Libya

Galtieri-Al-Qadhdhafi Messages -- In a message to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi carried by Tripoli radio, Argentine Presient Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri thanked the Libyan leader for Libya's "sincere and brave stance" regarding the "unjust war" being waged against Argentina. Galtieri said the struggle for liberation urgently requies spiritual solidarity to confront imperialism and materialism.

In a message to Galtieri on the occasion of Argentina's National Day, carried by Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland, Al-Qadhdhafi expressed Libya's full support for the Argentine people's struggle against British colonialism.

Jallud in Moscow -- During the course of his current visit to the Soviet Union, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, JANA reported. Jallud handed the Soviet leader a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, JANA said, and also held a separate meeting with Soviet defense chiefs.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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VOP RIDICULES HAIG'S MIDEAST PEACE INITIATIVES

NC271333 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1135 GMT 27 May 82

[Political commentary: "General Haig's Peace and Weinberger's Planes"]

[Text] Truly the U.S. administration is about to exceed the minimum limit of logic and reason when, through Haig, it presents new peace initiatives to solve all the problems in the Middle East, starting with the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, passing through the situation in the Lebanese arena and ending with the explosive situation in the Gulf area in light of developments resulting from the Iraq-Iran war. We say the U.S. administration exceeds the minimum limit of logic when presenting this because it has the long arm in pushing the situation in the area to the brink or to the state of permanent explosion, whether in Lebanon, where the root of the problem is indisputably American and where the oil added to the fire is also American; or in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the fire of confronting the American autonomy is spreading; or whether in the Gulf, where the United States cannot claim its hand is clean and that it has nothing to do with this fierce war.

The United States, whose secretary of state speaks of concern for peace, stability and peaceful initiatives, has concluded an agreement with Israel that was signed by Defense Secretary Weinberger and provides for the supply of 75 F-16 planes to Israel to guarantee peace -- the American way. The region has for many years suffered from these guarantees and paid an abundant price in blood spilled by U.S. planes under the slogans of American peace.

Truly, the U.S. administration lives under a heavy curtain of illusions. It imagines its peace proposals could conceal the reality of its aggressive role in the region and improve the ugly American face in order to become acceptable to Middle East states and peoples. Haig, who is very optimistic about the ability of the United States to resolve the conditions in the region according to its will, is indeed in need of a new visit to see first hand the developments on our land, developments that pour elsewhere than into the American pocket. There is a comprehensive revolution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Haig says we will impose the autonomy. We do not know whether Haig is aware of this revolution or if he prefers to deny its existence. This comprehensive revolution addresses the U.S. administration before it addresses the administration's agents in Tel Aviv. The revolution of our people in the occupied homeland says no to the autonomy! The Palestinian no and the comprehensiveness with which it is uttered mean in the political sense the closing of all doors in the face of the autonomy plot, making it impossible to implement.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, the Americans imagine they can pocket this country as easily as they ignited the fire in its body, and use it as a card in their interests. This is a mere American illusion and we do not believe it can be implemented, not even if the U.S.-Israeli military tool were compelled to reignite the fire in the south, in the north or in any other place. All the Lebanese who have tasted the bite of the American snake and are still suffering from the pain could not hand over their destiny to this snake even if it were to change its skin dozens of times.

The U.S. planes Sharon has recently obtained from Washington will not be doves of peace flying over Lebanon, throwing roses to its sons. They are an addition to the American planes we know well. We know how much they have destroyed and burned in Lebanon and how many of its sons they have killed. Therefore, how does Haig imagine the Lebanese will kiss his hands when his colleague Weinberger hands more planes of death and destruction to Israel?

Moreover, how does he imagine success for his future programs and plans and a popular acceptance of these programs? We are confident the illusions of ability governing U.S. aspirations in our area will turn sour because there are those in this region who are prepared to go to the fullest extent in confronting the United States. We the Palestinians are the first to say no to the U.S. plots. We are the first to fight in all arenas to stop the U.S. march. We have actually been and we are and will continue to be the painful thorn in the U.S. side. We do not say this out of malice but because we have become confident the Americans' insistence on the Camp David course is an insistence on the continuation of plots against our people and their national ambitions. This is what we reject and resist by all means. We have the ability to foil it.

MONDAY MORNING INTERVIEWS KLIBI ON ARAB ISSUES

NC271202 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 24-30 May 82 pp 38-41

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi by Beirut MONDAY MORNING Correspondent Lydia Georgi -- based on written questions and answers -- date and place not given]

[Text] The secretary general of the Arab League stated last week that Egypt's return to the league in the absence of unanimous Arab approval would pose a greater threat to the Arabs than Egypt's continued ostracism.

In a private interview with MONDAY MORNING, Secretary General Chedli Klibi said: "My contacts with the leaders of our (Arab) states have made it clear to me that the return of Egypt in the absence of Arab consensus would pose a greater threat to joint Arab action than the presence of Egypt." [as published]

Unless Egypt's return to the Arab League was arranged on "bases that would guarantee Arab consensus," Klibi added, "Arab ranks would, God forbid, be sundered so totally that it would take a very long time to bring them together again."

Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, he said, "imposes on it certain restraints which are not compatible with the Arab consensus as expressed in the successive Arab summits, starting with the Baghdad summit."

Egypt itself, while wanting to return to the Arab community, felt that this should happen in stages, Klibi said, and "in view of this, our duty as we see it is to await whatever Egyptian initiatives Egypt's own circumstances allow it to undertake and to encourage any inclination on Egypt's part to free itself of the restraints accepted by President (Anwar) as-Sadat," who was assassinated in Cairo last October.

The secretary general said that an invitation to Egypt to attend any Arab League meeting "is inconceivable except by a unanimous decision by the member states of the league."

Asked whether he considered the recent resumption of commercial aviation links between Baghdad and Cairo a violation of Arab resolutions by Iraq, Klibi said Iraq "remains committed to the principles approved by the Baghdad summit."

Iraq's relations with Egypt, however, were influenced first by its need for Egyptian arms for use in the war with Iran, and second by the fact that "some positive developments" had occurred in Egypt since the assassination of As-Sadat "which all Arabs hope will lead to Egypt's return to the Arab community."

Iraq and other Arab states "may feel that Egypt's return will occur in stages," Klibi said.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak "obviously" knew that the Camp David policy would not lead to lasting peace in the Middle East because it ignored the Palestinian problem, Klibi said, adding: "We therefore believe that the only way to achieve peace is to take this problem into consideration and give it top priority -- which is what the Saudi peace plan does."

As to whether the Palestinian problem should be dealt with through the UN or "in the framework of a conference restricted to a number of states," those were "formalities which would not hamper a final solution if the parties concerned and the influential states were to arrive at a consensus to enter the stage of applying international law." Klibi said.

The Saudi peace plan, proposed by Crown Prince Fahd in August, 1981 contains eight major principles, including "the right of all countries in the region to live in peace," which some Arab states objected to on the grounds that it implied recognition of Israel. Those objections led to the adjournment of the Fes summit conference in November, 1981, only hours after it started, and spokesmen for the Arab Gulf governments have since repeatedly stated that the Fes conference will not be reconvened unless agreement can be reached on the Saudi plan, either as is or with amendments acceptable to all.

Klibi told MONDAY MORNING that the efforts exerted since November had failed to achieve "accord on the issues that led to the adjournment of the Fes summit."

He added that the Arab states which had reservations about the Saudi peace plan would be more likely to accept the plan if they could be sure that it would be applied. "However, great doubts hover around this (the applicability of the plan), since Israel has rejected it categorically and the United States has not given it enough support to guarantee its success," he said.

Asked whether an Israeli invasion and occupation of south Lebanon could be averted in his opinion, Klibi said Israel was likely to press ahead with its policy of aggression as long as the U.S. continued to support its activities and see nothing in them that endangers Arab-Western relations, and as long as Arab solidarity on "basic issues" continued to be blocked by Arab divisions over "secondary matters."

Regarding the proposed Arab strategy to protect the south, Klibi said the Arabs "will not be able to guarantee that their efforts will meet with the desired success unless they are supported by a domestic Lebanese effort to narrow the gap between the various conflicting trends, because the rebuilding of state institutions (an apparent reference to the Lebanese Army, which would have a part to play in the Arab strategy proposed by the Lebanese Government) on foundations acceptable to all is first and foremost a Lebanese affair. The Arab states can -- indeed, must -- help in this matter to the extent that Lebanese legitimacy wishes, but the Lebanese effort remains the cornerstone without which no plan can be applied."

Klibi expressed disappointment in the "new course" Western Europe had taken in the Middle East over the past year, which he said "is falling short of the hopes we had pinned on it."

The European Community's "regrettable" change of course was due in part to "an underestimation of the dangers that might be created by Israel's insistence on unbounded violence.... These are dangers which threaten the region and also threaten the interests of the European states in various ways," he said.

The Arab states, Klibi said, "do not want Iraq to take any part of Iran's territory, and we will not accept Iranian occupation of one handspan of Arab land or Iranian attacks on Arab rights in the region."

The following is a full translation of MONDAY MORNING's interview with Secretary General Klibi, who answered all questions in writing:

[Question] Do you believe that an eventual Israeli invasion and occuption of south Lebanon can be prevented?

[Answer] There is no doubt that a terrorist state which has been built on aggression and expansion by force of arms and which is ruled by a racist tyrant will continue to engage in all kinds of violence and aggression -- as long as it can do so with impunity; as long as the United States continues to sponsor its activities, seeing nothing in them that endangers peace in the region or can have a real effect on the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Arab countries and the West; and as long as our (Arab) states are divided -- divided over secondary matters, it is true, but matters which nevertheless block their solidarity on basic issues.

[Question] What has happened to the proposed Arab strategy to protect south Lebanon?

[Answer] Is is known that the Fes summit (of November, 1981) adopted a resolution on this matter providing for the formation of a seven-state committee whose task it would be to prepare an Arab strategy for the protection of south Lebanon. The Lebanese Government put down an initial conception of this plan, and the political, informational and economic parts of that conception were studied while the military section was preferred to a subcommittee made up of the seven states' chiefs of staff. This subcommittee, however, postponed its meeting until the beginning of June.

I would like to add here that the responsibility of all our states in this regard is a heavy one, and we must all bear that responsibility fully. However, the member states of the league will not be able to carry out this responsibility as they should, and they will not be able to guarantee that their efforts will meet with the desired success, unless they are supported by a domestic Lebanese effort to narrow the gap between the various conflicting trends. Because the rebuilding of state institutions on foundations acceptable to all is first and foremost a Lebanese affairs. The Arab states can -- indeed, must -- help in this matter to the extent that Lebanese legitimacy wishes, but the Lebanese effort remains the cornerstone without which no plan can be applied and no strategy can yield the desired fruit.

[Question] What can the Arab League do to avert a serious split between the Arab states over the question of restoring relations with Egypt after the return of Sinai?

[Answer] The league -- the Arab League, or, more clearly, all the Arab states -- wants the return of Egypt to the Arab community and the resumption of its role and its participation in collective Arab action. The return of Egypt is the fondest wish of all Arab states without exception.

However, it is obvious that Egypt's commitment to the unilateral peace treaty with Israel imposes on it certain restraints which are not compatible with the Arab consensus as expressed in the successive Arab summits, starting with the Baghdad summit.

It is also obvious that the current Egyptian leadership wishes to facilitate Egypt's return to its position in the Arab family, but at the same time, it feels that this mus be done in stages. How else are we to interpret successive Egyptian statements that Egyptian-Arab rapprochement will not be achieved at the expense of Egypt's relations with Israel?

In view of this, our duty as we see it is to await whatever Egyptian initiatives Egypt's own circumstances allow it to undertake, and to encourage any inclination on Egypt's part to free itself of the restraints accepted by President as-Sadat.

[Question] As secretary general of the Arab League, do you concur with the view that Egypt should not be allowed back into the Arab community before it turns its back on Camp David?

[Answer] The policy of the League of Arab States is defined not by its secretary general but by all member states. My contacts with the leaders of our states have made it clear to me that the return of Egypt in the absence of Arab consensus would pose a greater threat to joint Arab action that the absence of Egypt.

I therefore believe that it is the secretary general's duty to concentrate his efforts in the direction of facilitating Egypt's return to the league on bases that would guarantee Arab consensus. Otherwise, Arab ranks would, God forbid, be sundered so totally that it would take a very long time to bring them together again.

[Question] When does the Arab League intend to reconvene the adjourned Fes summit conference? And when it does, will Egypt be invited?

[Answer] Despite the efforts exerted, it does not appear so far that sufficient grounds have become available for accord on the issues that led to the adjournment of the Fes summit. The resumption of the twelfth summit's sessions might be facilitated if those Arab states which had reservations about the Saudi plan were convinced that if the plan were to be approved by the summit, it might be applied. However, great doubts hover around this, since Israel has rejected it categorically and the United States had not given it enough support to guarantee its success.

As for whether Egypt will be invited to any of the forthcoming Arab meetings -- that is inconceivable except by a unanimous decision by the member states of the league.

[Question] What is your personal reaction to the statements issuing from some Arab states, like Sudan, calling on the Arabs to follow in Egypt's footsteps and recover their occupied territories theough negotiations with Israel?

[Answer] I do not share your understanding of the Sudanese state's positions or your interpretation of some of the statements made by official Sudanese personalities.

In my opinion, Sudan has special relations with Egypt which it is interested in preserving, but beyond that, it is part of the Arab consensus. Proof of this can be seen in the fact that Sudan is a member of the Arab League and has attended all its meetings after its headquarters were moved out of Cairo.

[Question] Do you believe that Iraq is violating the Baghdad summit resolutions by resuming its commercial aviation links with Egypt?

[Answer] Iraq, like all other Arab states, remains committed to the principles approved by the Baghdad summit, but its behavior where Egypt is concerned is influenced by two important considerations:

The first consideration is that Iraq is at war with Iran and is obliged to acquire certain weapons from Egypt.

The second consideration is that the Egyptian scene has since the assassination of As-Sadat been witnessing some positive developments which all Arabs hope will lead to Egypt's return to the Arab community. For this reason, Iraq and other Arab states may feel that Egypt's return will occur in stages.

[Question] Do you anticipate a religious split in the Arab world, with Cairo leading a Sunnite axis against a Tehran-centered axis as a result of the Iran-Iraq war?

[Answer] To the extent that we oppose alliances with external forces, we are strongly opposed to any axes that divide the nation internally.

In an age when peoples are tending towards ecumenism, it is shameful that certain propaganda should try to deepen sectarian divisions within true Islam, which is the religion of tolerance, the religion of reason and the religion of brotherhood.

[Question] Why is the Arab world suddenly so concerned about an Iranian incursion into Iraqi territory, after remaining silent for two years about Iraq's invasion of Iran?

[Answer] What our countries are interested in is peace in the region on the basis of "to each his rights," so that this peace can be firm and permanent. We do not want Iraq to take any part of Iran's territory, and we will not accept Iranian occupation of one handspan of Arab land or Iranian attacks on Arab rights in the region.

[Question] How much importance do you attach to the Euro-Arab dialogue and the EEC's apparently renewed interest in the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Answer] The Euro-Arab dialogue is not aimed only at securing the European Community's support for Arab rights -- although that is a very important consideration that figures prominently in our accounts -- but at a long-term regulation of the Euro-Arab relationship in all basic fields.

However, we find a number of signs that have emerged over the past year or so regrettable, because they indicate that the course the European Community is taking on the Arab-Israeli conflict is falling short of the hopes we had pinned on it.

We believe that this new course is due to a mistaken evaluation of Israel's aggressive, racist policy and an underestimation of the dangers that might be created by Israel's insistence on unbounded violence and prevention of the establishment of a Palestinian state. These are dangers which threaten the region and also threaten the interests of the European states in various ways.

We have not despaired of convincing our friends in Europe of the need for a more well-defined and dynamic European policy, to make the U.S. recognize the dire consequences which its current policy towards Israel is bound to yield, so that it will reconsider that policy, shed its total bias for Israel and place Arab rights and the interests of peace in the balance.

[Question] Where do you see the Middle East going after the Sinai withdrawal? Do you visualize a return to the Security Council, as suggested by Perez de Cuellar, or an international peace conference, as repeatedly proposed by the Soviet Union, or do you think that the Camp David Process will continue its course?

[Answer] The withdrawal from Sinai came in the framework of the Camp David policy, the responsibility for which is borne by President Sadat. It is obvious that President Mubarak understands that this policy will not lead to lasting peace in the region, because it does not address the principal problem that destroyed peace.

We therefore believe that the only way to achieve peace is to take this problem into consideration and give it top priority -- which is what the Saudi plan does.

How can this be achieved? Can it be achieved in the UN framework or in the framework of a conference restricted to a number of states? These are formalities which would not hamper a final solution if the parties concerned and the influential states were to arrive at a consensus to enter the stage of applying international law.

[Question] Why the general Arab apathy on the official and popular levels towards the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories?

[Answer] I do not share that view, although I do believe that our states can do more than they have done, either directly or through their embassies or through their information media. The fact is that the uprising in the occupied territories has taken everyone by surprise. Israel itself, which is accustomed to crushing rebellions quickly and easily, has been taken by surprise.

International public opinion, which for the first time is witnessing a movement in the occupied territories which stands firm, grows stronger and continues despite the massive efforts of the Israeli Army to suppress and oppress, has been taken by surprise.

We have decided to support the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories in all possible ways. The Arab League Council has adopted clear resolutions in this regard and has started to implement them. This is the basic effort on which we must all concentrate from now on.

[Question] But do you believe the Arab world is reaping the potential political benefits of the Palestinian blood being shed in Gaza and the West Bank?

[Answer] The blood that is being shed in the occupied territories is the sacrifice that must be made if the Palestinian people are to gain their freedom and dignity. Any other interpretation of these sacrifices would be an insult to the heroic struggle of our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

[Question] What is your comment on the Israeli Knesset's recent resolution banning the dismantling of settlements in future negotiations?

[Answer] This is fresh evidence that Israel is not interested in achieving peace based on right and law but wants only to impose an Israeli peace which would allow it to spread its hegemony over the region. It was for this reason that our states rejected the Camp David agreements, which in fact are aimed at consecrating Israeli sovereignty in the West Bank and the strip, in addition to Jerusalem and the Golan.

[Question] Is the Arab League doing anything to restore bridges between Syria and France?

[Answer] The Syrian-French estrangement is due to factors that can be influenced by third parties and to other considerations that go beyond bilateral relations and relate to the Syrian Government's view of the French policy in the Middle East after President Mitterrand's visit to Israel.

Each of these factors and those considerations requires special treatment, and in both cases this cannot be done without the participation of those concerned.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RETURNS FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO OMAN 27 MAY

GF270944 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 May (WAKH) -- His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, returned here from Muscat this morning following a 4-day official visit to Oman. He was received on arrival by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; and senior Bahraini officials.

KUWAIT

U.S., EEC URGED TO RESOLVE IRAQ-IRAN DISPUTE

GF270955 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0912 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Kuwait, 27 May (WAKH) -- Citing a Gulf official, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports today that Gulf contacts have been made with the United States and EEC countries to present a definite and clear stand on the war threatening Gulf security and to win their support and assistance in reaching a settlement for the Iraq-Iran dispute.

The Gulf official, whose name was not mentioned, added that these contacts led to the EEC and U.S. announcement that they are ready to participate in efforts to find a peaceful solution to the current dispute. The official said the international situation is now ripe to (?reach) a peaceful solution to the conflict.

OMAN

BAHRAIN, OMAN ISSUE STATEMENT ON AMIR'S VISIT

GF270930 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 May 82

["Text" of Omani-Bahraini joint statement issued in Muscat and Manama at the conclusion of Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah's visit to Oman 24-27 May]

[Text] In consolidation of their ties of fraternity and in response to an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, made an official visit to the sultanate between 24 and 27 May 1982. His highness the amir and the accompanying delegation were accorded an official and popular welcome that expressed the genuine historical relations linking the two fraternal countries and peoples.

Official talks were held in a spirit of sincere fraternity. The Bahraini side was led by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and the Omani side was led by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the current Gulf situation, current inter-Arab relations and international issues of mutual interest.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with their historic bilateral relations and their progress and development. They emphasized the need for continuously enhancing cooperation between the two fraternal countries in various fields.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah expressed his great admiration for the massive development Oman is undergoing in various fields and for the major accomplishments achieved under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his government.

In reviewing the progress of the GCC, the two sides praised the GCC's accomplishments in various fields and asserted that the GCC is a pioneering step in establishing intrinsic strength, preserving the region's stability and security and keeping it away from international rivalries.

On the Iraq-Iran war the two sides expressed regret over the shedding of Islamic blood and over the continuation of this war that has caused heavy losses for both countries. They expressed hope this war will stop and peace will be established between the two countries on the principles of good neighborliness and nonintervention in the internal affairs of others.

Regarding the Palestinian issue the two sides expressed their full support for the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their legitimate rights, including their right to establish their independent state in their homeland. They called upon the world public to put an end to the violations of human rights that Israel is practicing against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Regarding inter-Arab relations the two sides emphasized the need for ending Arab differences and for action to restore Arab solidarity to meet the challenges facing the Arab nation and preserve its unity.

On the current situation in Lebanon the two sides expressed hope that efforts being made will succeed in resolving disputes between the warring paries and in preserving national unity and the Lebanese people's security and stability under their legitimate government.

The two sides also reviewed the current international situation and issues of common interest. They hoped all countries will make all possible efforts to preserve international peace and justice.

At the conclusion of his visit His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality he and the accompanying delegation were accorded by His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and the Omani people. His highness extended an official invitation to his brother his majesty the sultan to visit Bahrain. His majesty accepted the invitation. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

SAUDI ARABIA

RADIO DENIES REPORTING SYRIAN MOVES AGAINST IRAQ

LD272232 Riyadh SPA in English 1903 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Riyadh, 27 May (SPA) -- The Saudi Arabian broadcasting station today denied that Riyadh radio have ever referred to any Syrian movements against Iraq. An official source at the station affirmed that reports published on the subject were completely unfounded.

PDRY

VOICE OF PFLO ON OMANI YOUTH DELEGATION TO MOSCOW

EA262128 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 26 May 82

[Excerpts] Brothers: A delegation of the Organization of Omani Youths led by the comrade president of the organization returned yesterday afternoon from Moscow after participating in the 19th Komsomol Congress convened 18-22 May.

The organization's delegation made a speech on this occasion hailing the 19th congress and wished Soviet communist youths every success and progress along the road of the Great Socialist October Revolution and in building and entrenching the pillars of the colossal socialist system. It also emphasized (?the importance of) strengthening the relationship between the Leninist Komsomol organization and the Organization of Omani Youths.

Our delegation also met a member of the Komsomol Central Committee. Their discussion centered upon strengthening the relationship and the Leninist Komsomol's readiness to support the youth of Oman in their struggle against imperialism and reactionism. The Komsomol also offered various types of assistance to the Organization of Omani Youths, including scholarships.

Our delegation appreciated the support of the Leninist Komsomol to the struggling youths of the world, among them our struggling Omani youths. It also emphasized great concern for and solidarity with the youth of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf.

In his speech the comrade leader of the Organization of Omani Youths delegation said:

This congress of yours comes 4 years after the 18th congress. There is no doubt that during this short period you have made great achievements and successes in strengthening and entrenching the pillars of the socialist system.

Dear comrades: Our Omani homeland faces a great ordeal in that it is exposed to imperialist aggression. American and British bases are spreading on its territory, in particular on Al-Masirah Island, Musandam, Salalah and Thamarit. U.S. military intervention increases daily with the presence of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces on our territory. They carry out aggressive joint maneuvers against the people of the region, in particular the PDRY. For this reason, dear comrades, we ask you for further solidarity with and support for our revolution, led by the PFLO, which is struggling alone and confronting the forces of American imperialism and its allies. Our Omani people have been struggling for their freedom, independence and social progress for 17 years. They have always offered the greatest sacrifices for the sake of these objectives.

They are supported in this by all forces that love freedom and peace in the world, headed by the friendly USSR, which is loyal to our Arab people. For this reason we reaffirm our support for the Soviet proposals for making the Arabian Gulf a region of security and peace, free from foreign military bases.

We stress the strengthening and development of the militant relationship between the Organization of Omani Youths and the Leninist Komsomol. Long live the 19th Congress! Long live the Soviet Communist Party! Long live Soviet-Arab friendship, always victorious! Let the cause of world peace triumph!

BRIEFS

NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR -- At noon today at the Supreme People's Council Secretariat, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Central Committee general secretary, Supreme People's Council Presidium chairman and Council of Ministers chairman, received the credentials of Comrade (Vladislav Petrovskiy) as the USSR's ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to Democratic Yemen. During the credentials presentation ceremony, a cordial discussion took place between the brother secretary general and the ambassador on bilateral relations and the scope of their development and on a number of issues of common interest. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 82 EA]

FLOOD AID FROM CHINA -- The Chinese Red Cross society has offered a donation estimated at $30,000 for those who suffered through the floods and rains which swept our country recently. This occurred when Brother Faruq ibn Salman, assistant deputy minister of local government, received in his office this morning the second secretary of the PRC Embassy. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 May 82 EA]

AL-AKHBAR APPLAUDS HAIG STATEMENT ON MIDEAST

NC272251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AKHBAR welcomes U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement on the Middle East situation.

In its editorial to be published in Friday's issue, the paper says the logic with which Haig spoke is the logic of facing up to the major challenges confronting the United States in the Middle East. This is what prompted Haig to say there is no other area similar to the Middle East in that it does not allow political negativeness.

The paper points out that the tone in which Haig spoke means that the United States feels the grave dangers in the Middle East area as well as the need for a change in the course of events in the area.

Concluding its article, the paper says the success of this strategy depends on the extent, nature and depth of this comprehensive treatment of the situation in the area.

'ALI WELCOMES RESUMPTION OF AUTONOMY TALKS

NC271352 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stressed Egypt's interest in resuming the transitional stage and autonomy discussions on the basis that the Palestinian problem is the essence of the Middle East crisis.

In a statement to newsmen today, 'Ali said Egypt welcomes the U.S. efforts in this regard. He referred to Egypt's insistence that the measures of the transitional stage include all territory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including east Jerusalem, which Israel occupied after the 1967 war, on the basis that it is impermissible to seize lands by force; and that the measures Israel adopted to annex the eastern part of Jerusalem are illegal, a matter confirmed by the various UN and Security Council resolutions.

In his statement, 'Ali pointed out that it is necessary that the autonomous body should enjoy wide powers, and that enough guarantees should be provided during the transitional stage, which must not be more than 5 years, enabling the sons of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to exercise their legitimate rights.

The foreign minister highlighted the importance of initiating confidence building measures among the parties to provide the appropriate atmosphere for negotiations. These measures include: ending the acts of suppression, guaranteeing the freedom of expression, stopping the confiscation of lands and releasing the political prisoners in addition to other measures Egypt had previously called for.

In conclusion, 'Ali said the head of the American side to the autonomy discussions on the experts level, Cluverius, is expected to arrive in Cairo early next week to hold consultations with the Egyptian side for 4 days.

GHALI, NDP OFFICIALS TO GO TO ISRAEL 3 MAY

NC272019 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Dr Mustafa Khalil, National Democratic Party [NDP] deputy leader and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, will make a 4-day visit to Israel starting this Sunday.

He will be accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and NDP organization secretary Kamal ash-Shadhili. The visit is in response to an invitation by the Israeli Labor Party to Dr Mustafa Khalil.

The radio correspondent has learned that during the visit Dr Mustafa Khalil will hold a series of meetings with Israeli Labor Party members and Israeli executive and popular leaders.

GHALI MEETS WITH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN BRUSSELS

NC271230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1054 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Brussels, 27 May (MENA) -- Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has emphasized the importance with which Egypt views its relations with African states, its constant endeavor to maintain African unity and its pride in the African support for Egypt.

During a meeting with the African ambassadors in Brussels yesterday Dr Ghali also reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, during a meeting yesterday with (Edgar Bizzani), commissioner of the European Development Affairs Committee, Dr Ghali discussed the integration projects between Egypt and Sudan. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in Brussels Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil.

The Egyptian ambassador in Brussels said Dr Ghali's visit to Brussels, which began on Sunday, provided an opportunity for further Egyptian-European meetings, including a meeting between Ghali and the Luxembourg foreign minister and another meeting with the British foreign secretary who was attending the European Ministerial Council meeting.

SOURCE DENIES MUBARAK, REZA PAHLAVI MET

NC272206 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2127 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA) -- A responsible official source has denied a report published by the London-based Arabic-language AL-MAJALLAH magazine today to the effect that President Husni Mubarak met recently with Prince Reza Pahlavi, eldest son of the late shah of Iran, and discussed various aspects of the Gulf war with him.

Commenting on this report, the source said: We wish this magazine, for which we harbor every appreciation, would investigate the validity of reports before publishing them. The source added that such fabricated reports only serve the aims of those who spread them.

CHANGE IN NONALIGNED SUMMIT VENUE OPPOSED

NC280805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 May (MENA) -- The newspaper AL-AHRAM emphasized today that Egypt will oppose any attempt to transfer [the venue of] the nonaligned states' summit conference from Baghdad to another capital in light of the efforts that wre being made by Syria and Cuba in this direction.

The newspaper says Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, head of the Egyptian UN delegation, will fly to Havana to attend the meetings to be held by the nonaligned states at the foreign ministers level.

AL-AHRAM CONCERNED OVER SPREAD OF IRAQ-IRAN WAR

NC272323 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2226 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 May (MENA) -- In its Friday editorial, the newspaper AL-AHRAM expresses its concern about the possibility Iranian forces will cross the Iraqi borders and the resultant dangers that would present for the whole Gulf area.

The paper says: There is a possibility that the Iranian forces will push toward the narrow southern Iraqi area, invade Basrah and deploy on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border and part of the northern Saudi border, constituting a three-dimensional pressure tool. They will isolate Iraq from Kuwait, harass their regimes and assume a threatening position toward Saudi Arabia. This will also have repercussions in the neighboring areas on the western Gulf coast when Iran achieves a controlling position at the head of the Gulf in addition to its eastern coast.

The paper continues: If we add to that the subversive elements which can be sent across the border, while maintaining the bridgehead and maintaining open supply and communication routes to Iranian territory, it would be possible to determine the extent of the danger that could cause an explosion in the area.

The paper denounces in this regard the position of the so-called Arab steadfastness front states, saying these states' open tendency to support Iran against fraternal Iraq seems to be motivated by purely selfish reasons and perhaps with familiar coordination with big states interested in drawing closer to the Gulf outlets. The suspicion increases when all these parties join with Israel in supporting Iran.

Concluding its article, the paper affirms that the Israeli support was a clear aim: to weaken Iraq's strength and any other Arab strength to serve Israeli superiority and obliterate the Palestinian issue.

AL-AHRAM URGES IRAN TO TRY DIPLOMACY, NOT WAR

NC271019 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial, AL-AHRAM affirms the need for a serious endeavor on the regional and international levels to end the Iraqi-Iranian war threatening to engulf the area in the wake of the statements and threats uttered by Iranian officials, which have escalated following the recent Iranian victories on the battlefield.

The newspaper explained that judging from the Iranian stand, it seems Iran wants to cast its shadow on the Gulf and other parts of the Middle East. The Iranian leaders are threatening that they are speaking from a strong position following their recent victories. This is the same tone that was previously uttered by other leaders who were intoxicated by their strength to the extent that they brought destruction upon their countries. Iran would do better if it absorbs this lesson of history and begins to search for an honorable settlement based on right and justice.

Iran can achieve its demands by diplomatic means now that it has proved its military strength. It will be an ill omen for Iran itself if it decides to persist in its dreams of oppressing other peoples and thus commit the same mistakes which others in the past have committed and which have resulted in tragic ends and unnecessary victims.

AL-AHRAM adds: What is worse is that the Iranian leaders have begun to involve unrelated political matters in this war. No one understands why the Iranian leaders are warning the Arab Gulf states against supporting the Camp David agreement and the Saudi peace plan and are threatening them that Iran will not remain silent about this.

Perhaps we can understand their warning to these states against assisting Iraq. However, what have the Camp David agreement and the Saudi peace plan to do with this? Perhaps the involvement of these political matters has something to do with the support Iran is getting from both the Soviet Union and the so-called steadfastness states.

Concluding AL-AHRAM says: The dangerous polarizations which are appearing in the area because of this ferocious and useless war must be a reason to start serious action to stop the fighting and encourage negotiations to protect the Middle East from a conflagration, whose consequences no one can predict.

ARAB ATTENTION DISTRACTED FROM 'URGENT ISSUE'

PM271521 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 May 82 pp 1, 3

[Part II of chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "Blood in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] While alarming news is coming from the Iranian-Iraqi battlefield and signs of danger threatening Gulf security and the whole Arab area are escalating, the Arab arena is now distracted from the danger coming from the Gulf and is wasting precious time and effort in discussing an issue about which Egypt -- while drawing attention to the real dangers -- said was not the urgent issue that should divert our attention from the battlefield in the Gulf. This is the question of whether the Arabs should return to Egypt or Egypt return to the Arabs.

Some people, motivated by good will and a realization of the importance of Egypt's role in the Arab nation insist on the need for Egypt's urgent return to the Arab world in order to resume its "vacant" seat in leading and guiding Arab solidarity.

Other people, motivated by malice or fear of the discontinuation of aid and grants they receive, react in such a way that Egypt will remain outside the Arab arena and do so in order to maintain the deteriorating Arab situation and the division that enables their regimes to remain in power under the slogan of steadfastness and confrontation and other senseless words that solve no problem and hamper every sincere effort to do so.

This is happening at a time when dangers are looming on the Iraq-Iran battlefield which require the Arabs to agree on facing up to, and preparing for, future eventualities.

This is also happening at a time when Egypt says every day and declares on every occasion that the restoration of Arab solidarity is a historical inevitability more than a subject of discussion, or a controversial question, or a means for blackmail and threats by certain parties.

Egypt does not wish or accept that its return to the Arab world should lead to others leaving it through the other door. Egypt wishes to add to Arab credit rather than detract from it and wishes to bolster rather than weaken Arab solidarity in the face of dangers.

Realizing its Arab responsibilities, Egypt does not want the Arabs to waste their precious efforts in discussing the question of Egypt's return now so that this issue -- which is a foregone conclusion -- will not take precedence over the dangers emanating from the Gulf. Discussion of the immediate danger should come before discussion of the obvious.

The immediate danger is approaching the Arab area --not at a crawling pace, but at a run -- while we are preoccupied with other issues.

Because we need someone to yell in our ear in order to draw attention to the approaching danger, Egypt demands that we divert all our attention to the Iraq-Iran front in order to contain all its destructive results to Arab security before they can worsen and lead to a new disaster to be added to our existing disasters that will take years to overcome.

Once more, Egypt says Iraq's collapse, should it happen, will lead to a new disaster that will not stop at the collapse of Iraq and at Iran's invasion of its territory -- which would be a great disaster in itself -- but will also lead to the collapse and the fall of the neighboring Gulf countries one by one, which would be an even greater and worse disaster which, we hope, every effort will be made to avert before it is too late.

Once again Egypt says that Iraq's collapse, should it happen, will have long-term negative effects on the Arab nation's ability, on the Arab strategy, and on Egyptian long-term security as well as on Egypt's efforts and struggle to solve the basic problem, the Palestine problem, and on the hopes of solving the Lebanese problem and of ending the sufferings of the Lebanese people. It would also have a negative effect on the capabilities of the Arab countries which will be forced to divert part of these capabilities toward solving the new problem, bearing in mind our many existing problems which are depleting our blood, money and efforts which should be directed toward building and developing resources.

It was a realization of these dangers that prompted Egypt to support Iraq after the balance of war became tilted toward it.

In view of the gravity of the coming dangers, Egypt did not stop merely at supplying Iraq with ammunition but also went a stage further and made a great sacrifice the significance of which history will reveal. That was when it supplied Iraq with types of weapons from the Egyptian Armed Forces' strategic reserve so that Iraq might use them in strengthening its fighting forces. This has been Egypt's stance since the beginning of last year, during the late President Anwar as-Sadat's era, and this stance has continued and has become stronger during President Husni Mubarak's era. It is a principled stand dictated first by Egypt's Arab affiliation and, second, by its long-term view of the dangers of the Gulf war.

Egypt, as everybody knows, is not an arms merchant. It had previously refused to sell arms to brokers who came to Egypt to conclude large and profitable arms deals. But Egypt refused to sell them arms when it ascertained that the "end user" of these arms would be Iran.

We are not arms merchants who sell arms to whomsoever asks. And we are definitely not war merchants who would sell arms to the two conflicting sides that are fighting to the death, as some parties are doing.

Certainly not. Suffice it to say that the arms we gave Iraq were taken from our forces' strategic reserve. In order to replenish this reserve we have been compelled to turn to international sources of arms which, of course, means that we are required to pay new, exorbitant prices for arms.

It will also suffice to say that from the beginning we have refused to sell arms to middlemen, whoever they may be. Iraqi military delegations, the most recent of which came to Cairo last week, come to Egypt officially to conclude official deals for the arms that Iraq needs.

Egypt will continue to do so until an end to this tragic war is reached.

Egypt will continue to supply arms to Iraq until it is able to reorganize its forces and repel the Iranian attack pressuring its army. If we had been in a position to offer more aid we would not have hesitated to do so. But the type and quantity of Egyptian aid will remain governed by strategic and economic factors known to us all. We are not here to settle scores or to apportion blame, but we would like to remind some people that had Egypt, in past years, received adequate aid instead of punishment and boycott, it would have now been able to equip additional [military] units with which it would participate in preventing new Arab disasters.

It would suffice to point to the measures taken to weaken the Arab military industrialized authority despite the fact that an institution as vital to the Arab nation's strategic security as this should have been kept above political differences and maneuvers. Failing to do so means losing our perspective, miscalculating our priorities and failing to distinguish between strategy and tactics.

In any case, this is not the time to cry over spilled milk. In war, military commanders lay down several scenarios for potential developments so as to be ready to face them. The likely scenario for the current developments of the Iraq-Iran war almost certainly indicates that Iran, should it win, will not be content to stop at Iraq's borders.

Why? Because in the current war, as is evident from its development, there are two parties: One party has the military initiative and insists on prolonging the war and dictating its terms for stopping it. The other party is regrouping its forces, resorting to defense tactics and showing much flexibility in putting forward views and proposals to end the war and solve all the outstanding problems peacefully. And because moderation in war is madness, as one famous German general said, the winning party usually does not stop unless it dictates its will completely on the other party and achieves its military and political objectives.

The liberation of Iranian territory from Iraqi forces is not the only objective of the recent Iranian offensive, as Khomeyni has declared more than once and as is indicated in his incitement of Iranian youths to participate in the war along with the revolutionary guards in order to achieve the dream of reaching Karbala' [holy shrine] in Iraq where the blood of first martyr Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali was spilt and which is the qiblah of Shi'as everywhere.

Khomeyni's dreams of establishing an Islamic Khomeynite empire extending beyond the Iranian borders are public knowledge. His desire to punish the Gulf states that supported and gave financial aid to Iraq in its war against Iran is also known.

What can we do in order to prevent this bloody scenario from materializing and to repel the Iranian danger to Iraq, to the Gulf and to Arab security?

Certainly the first urgent necessity in the present situation is that all efforts should be rallied in order to support Iraq so that it may stand fast in defending itself and repel the Iranian hordes which are dreaming of crossing its borders and taking the Shi'ite shrines in Iraq before turning toward the Gulf states in order to punish them.

First of all, those Arab parties that help the Iranian military effort must realize the seriousness of the crime they are committing against the Arab nation, stop helping the Iranian party in the war, and -- if they can read history -- turn instead to supporting Iraq not in occupying the land of others but in defending its borders. For the collapse of Iraq would open the way to the borders of these very same parties sooner or later, if not externally then through internal sabotage or the export of revolution.

Furthermore, the countries that give material aid to Iraq must continue to do so, and some of the countries neighboring Iraq must, when necessary, go beyond giving material aid and give help and succor if the danger increases.

Afterwards, it will be necessary for the Arab countries, together with Egypt, to bring pressure to bear on the two superpowers so these will not stand idly by in the face of the raging war and that in turn they will bring pressure to bear on the parties to the conflict in order to contain its results and find a solution acceptable to both sides.

The continuation of the conflict, even if Iran fails to achieve its objectives, will turn the Iraq-Iran battlefield into a permanent volcano that is sometimes calm and at other times erupts.

This would go on for many years, during which much Arab and Islamic blood would be shed and Arab money and Arab capabilities would be squandered, as a result of which hopes for solving the basic problems will vanish and so will the ability to devote resources to construction instead of war.

U.S., USSR REPORTEDLY KNEW OF ARMS SALES TO IRAN

PM271525 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 May 82 p 1

[ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Cairo bureau report]

[Text] Cairo -- A senior Egyptian official has revealed for the first time that Iran tried to buy arms from Egypt through a Swiss company in order to use them in its war against Iraq and that Egypt refused to sell.

The senior Egyptian official affirmed that Syria and Libya have given Iran some 250 tanks in its war against Iraq and promised to increase this number to 650.

The Egyptian official also said North Korea gave Iran vast quantities of ammunition and equipment. Also Israel, through an air bridge set up by the Israeli Air Force between Tel Aviv and Tehran, supplied Iran with spare parts for the Phantoms that form the backbone of the Iranian Air Force.

The official accused both the United States and the Soviet Union of being behind the deteriorating situation in the area and the outbreak of war between Iraq and Iran in order to weaken them militarily and economically, attributing this to the fact that Syria, Libya and North Korea cannot supply Soviet arms to Iran without the Soviet Union's approval, just as Israel cannot supply Iran with aircraft parts without the knowledge and approval of the United States.

The Egyptian official said Egypt officially asked the U.S. side for an explanation about Israel's military aid to Iran in its war against Iraq. He said the U.S. side alleged that it had no knowledge of what was happening and when Egypt submitted official documents to the Americans proving Israel's aid to Iran they explained this as being done by Israel in order to protect the Jewish community in Tehran.

The senior Egyptian official said the aim behind the United States increasing tension in the Gulf as a result of the war is to break up the unity of OPEC, especially among the Arab members, so that the 1973 events -- when the flow of oil to the United States and Europe was stopped -- will not recur and, on the other hand, to impose a fait accompli policy and obtain approval for the establishment of bases and military facilities to protect the area.

The Egyptian official explained that at present the real danger in the Gulf lies in the fact that there are about 25,000 Iraqi military personnel [presumably Shi'ite or anti-Saddam Husayn] on Iranian territory Iran might send into the area in order to stir up trouble and difficulties for the Arab regimes.

BRIEFS

IRON ORE, COAL DISCOVERY -- Cairo, 27 May (MENA) -- Geological survey teams have confirmed the existence of huge quantities of iron ore in (Jabal al-Hilal), southwest Rafah. The chairman of the geological survey authority, geologist Mahmud Za'tut, mentions this in a statement published in AL-AKHBAR's Thursday edition. He adds that a water well, which the Israeli authorities closed before their final withdrawal, was discovered, and that a survey proved the existence of coal deep in the well. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 May 82 NC]

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE NO 724

JN271645 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 May 82

[Communique No 724 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 May 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

For the sake of sovereignty and dignity, in defense of proud Iraq and its brave people and out of the desire to safeguard the Arab nation's future, the sons of Iraq continue their just fighting, asserting their ability to make sacrifices, achieving victory and destroying the enemy forces which harbor evil toward Iraq and the Arab nation -- people and land. The sons of Iraq, who have taught the enemy hard lessons and have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy during the past 20 months, can now and in the future foil the Khomeyni clique's machinations and destroy its sick delusions and dreams. Our people will remain victorious and continue to hold the reins of glory, pride, dignity and freedom.

The results of the military operations carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units continued to pound enemy positions and concentrations opposite our positions in the Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] area, killing 41, capturing a number of troops and destroying 2 tanks and 4 vehicles.

2. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the Nowsud area. Our forces pounded it, killing 11 and destroying 2 stockpiles of hardware.

3. Our air force today raided enemy positions and concentrations in the central sector of the operational field, scoring effective hits before returning safely to base.

4. Three were killed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

Thus, the total known enemy losses amount to 55 dead, a number of troops captured, 2 tanks, 4 vehicles and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

5. Our sacrifices:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: three vehicles were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 27 May 1982

ARMED FORCES CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING MORE VICTORIES

JN271203 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA) -- The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says the Iraqis, who have scored brilliant victories, crushed the myth of the fifth strongest army in the world and taught Khomeyni harsh lessons, are still full of determination and zeal and are capable of achieving further victories and ending the battle to their advantage.

In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Iraqis are now are determined than ever to protect their heritage and revolution against the perfidious designs of the treacherous forces.

It adds the Iraqis will remain lofty, unharmed by the plots, aggression and designs of the treacherous forces, because they took into account all calculations before they confronted the Khomeyni aggression. They confronted the aggression alone depending on their own intrinsic power and special talents as well as on the forces of right and purity of the nation's conscience.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH says all the spiteful voices that started infusing rancor and hatred, are aimed at robbing the spirit of victory earned by the Iraqis, reducing their zeal and wrecking their self-confidence and ability to achieve final victory.

HAMMADI LEAVES FOR NONALIGNED MEETING IN HAVANA

JN271048 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 27 May (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi left Baghdad for Havana this morning to attend the nonaligned Coordination Bureau meeting, which will begin on Monday and will last 5 days.

It has been learned that Dr Hammadi will also visit Nigeria, Guinea and Senegal to convey messages to their leaders from President Saddam Husayn containing invitations to attend the seventh nonaligned summit conference, scheduled to be held in Baghdad in September.

INVITED NONALIGNED STATES RESPOND FAVORABLY

JN280723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 28 May 82

[Text] Baghdad, 28 May (INA) -- The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH reports today that President Saddam Husayn has sent 97 messages to nonaligned presidents and heads of governments in Asia, Africa and Latin America inviting them to participate in the seventh nonaligned summit conference in Baghdad. The paper says 50 countries have so far expressed complete readiness to attend the summit. ATH-THAWRAH points out that invitations were also extended to a number of international organizations.

HABIB CHATTI ARRIVES IN AMMAN, MAKES STATEMENT

JN271303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, arrived in Amman this morning on a brief visit to Jordan.

In an arrival statement, Chatti said he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior officials to exchange views on a number of major Islamic issues that are important to the Islamic world, particularly holy Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territory, where our kinsolk are exposed to various dangers. Chatti said the seriousness of these issues is known to all, and makes it incumbent upon us to exert all efforts to reach a solution to all these issues and ward off the dangers menacing us. Chatti added: We have always found full support and understanding from His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials on the various Islamic issues. He added it is useful to renew our studies on the most important resolutions issued by the Jerusalem Committee following its last meeting which was held in Fes chaired by Moroccan King Hassan II.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Chatti said: We, at the Islamic Conference Organization are against the continuation of this war and we have been working right from the beginning to stop it. We have also exerted great efforts in this regard. He added the Islamic Good Will Committee will meet on 6 June to discuss the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war and the proposals presented as well as the reactions these proposals might face in the two countries.

Chatti was welcomed at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Received by King Husayn

JN271454 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Amman, 27 May (PETRA) -- His Majesty King Husayn received Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, at Al-Hummar Palace at noon today. The two sides reviewed basic Arab issues, particularly the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Chatti briefed his majesty on the Islamic mediation efforts and the forthcoming steps to be undertaken by the Good Offices Committee to halt the fighting and achieve a just settlement to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Royal Court Chief Ahmad al-Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim attended the meeting.

Departs 27 May

JN272115 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], left Amman this evening after a 1-day visit to Jordan. Chatti was received by His Majesty King Husayn today and reviewed with him the main problems in the Arab region, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war developments. Chatti briefed his majesty on the Islamic mediation committee efforts and the stpes to be taken by the Islamic Good Offices Committee to end the fighting and find a just solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad al-Lawzi and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

AD-DUSTUR: HAIG STATEMENT NOTHING NEW

JN280856 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 May 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Between Washington's Words and Deeds," AD-DUSTUR says: Although Alexander Haig's statement yesterday on the Middle East problems include what might be considered positive or constructive aspects, the statement as a whole does not eliminate the ambiguity and instability that characterizes U.S. policy toward the problems the secretary dealt with. He said these problems endanger the stability of the region, namely the Iraqi-Iranian war, Lebanon and the autonomy talks. Haig's statement cannot be taken to imply a clear U.S. policy toward the region. Even the positive aspects of his statement raise doubts due to the U.S. practical exercises and actual stands on the events and developments in the region.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Through long experience with the United States, the Arab masses have learned that what is said in seminars, in press conferences or on television is not what matters. What is important is what the United States does to influence the course of events. This is why we ask: How can Haig's statement be in harmony with his country's worry and concern over the Iraqi-Iranian war and its influence in the Gulf area, while at same time the U.S. participates in these developments by giving the green light to Israel to supply Iran with U.S. military weapons and equipment?

Sharon admitted this on U.S. television. We can also say that Haig's statements on autonomy talks, despite the fact that they seem to contradict the Israeli interpretation of the plan, flatly contradicts the U.S. silence over the Israeli practices in the occupied territory which aim at ignoring autonomy. While Haig says autonomy is a phase and not an end and criticizes Israel's stand, which is based on the idea that autonomy is the end of the road, we see the United States is silent on Israeli terrorism, intimidation, confiscation of lands, setting up settlements and dismissing mayors. All these steps are aimed at gradually annexing the occupied territory and expelling the Arab inhabitants or converting them into merely an Arab community living in Israel's land.

AD-DUSTUR says: Thus, it becomes clear that what Haig is saying is one thing and what we really see and sense daily is another. This matter makes us believe that Washington's policy is no more than an extension of the previous policies which tries to satisfy the Arabs through promises but actually supports Israel by action. What supports this belief is that Washington, after it has continuously protected Israel from international punishment by using the veto at the UN Security Council, is today hastening to revive the strategic cooperation agreement with it. Washington is about to sell Israel 75 new fighter planes in addition to the economic aid aimed at strengthening Israel's military superiority in the region as well as supporting its ability of challenge and aggression.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: If the United States is serious about pursuing a new policy in order to establish a just peace in the region, it must not depend on the diplomacy of promises. The United States must exert serious and sincere efforts to build peace based on UN Resolution 242, it must clearly announce that the Israeli settlements are not legitimate and must be removed and that the decision to annex Jerusalem and the Golan are null and void. The United States should also force Israel to honor the commitment of total withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and to respect the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Only then will Washington's words be in harmony with its deeds and will the Arabs believe that Washington is serious and is seeking a comprehensive just peace in the Middle East.

TEXT OF FRENCH PREMIER'S SPEECH IN BEIRUT 26 MAY

AB271358 Paris Diplomatic Information Service in French 1052 GMT 27 May 82

[Speech by French Premier Pierre Mauroy in Beirut on 26 May 1982]

[Text] Ladies, gentlemen and dear countrymen: My first words go to the bereaved families. Their mourning is also that of the French Government's and my presence here testifies to that.

This very wicked misfortune which has brought us together today and which has struck your families, alas, increases the long list of those misfortunes which have for a long time struck the Lebanese people.

And I know very well that besides the pain, many of you here are horrified by another atrocious attack which has once again struck the French Embassy in this martyred city, the French community in Lebanon and the French people as a whole.

To the baseness of such an act, of such an abominable crime, are added other gestures of the same type. They have caused the death of Louis Delamare, the French ambassador, who paid with his life for an admirable effort of understanding and dialogue among all the parties to the Lebanese conflict. They have caused the death of Mrs Cavallo and her husband -- an accountant at the embassy. They have also caused the death of Brigadier Dogniaux, an officer of the United Nations International Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL].

All the crimes do not make us forget the attacks carried out against the French presence in Lebanon -- whether against AFP, the Air France office, or the French culture center in the Villa des Dunes. Today, the names of Anna Cosmedis, Daniel Richard, Nabil Ra'd, Misbah Mirzah and Havdar Salim -- all employees of our embassy -- have been added to this list.

This very morning, the Council of Ministers submitted their names to the national order. Also, the names of Lebanese citizens killed in the frightful explosion on Monday have been added to the list.

All these victims fell in the name of French-Lebanese friendship. I respectfully revere their memory.

Added to the sadness in our hearts today is a feeling of revulsion that I neither can nor wish to hide because all the dead for whom France is mourning with you today died in defense of peace and friendship -- peace in Lebanon, peace in the Middle East, and the unflinching friendship between France and Lebanon and between France and all the countries of this region of the world which is strife-torn and bloodstained.

More particularly, I would like to address myself to my fellow countrymen who are numerous among us here today. I would like to tell them this: You are not here as combatants because France is not at war with anyone. You are here -- each one of you -- Mr Ambassador, you the French Embassy worker and you members of the armed forces; all you French nationals in Lebanon -- as the ambassadors of peace and the defenders of law against force and violence.

France with its presence in Beirut, in Lebanon and in the entire Middle East does not pursue goals other than peace and friendship. It operates openly without weapons other than diplomacy and international law, because France is not what it is unless it speaks the language of law and justice. That is why it is the target of those who have no other laws than violence and war and who make terror their means of action.

France will remain unflinching in the face of these odious and base acts and it will not cease to denounce violence. It will not retreat before these threats and crimes.

It will not stop pursuing the peaceful path that the Lebanese authorities -- France's friends -- request it to adopt. With perserverence and determination, it will continue to work patiently and persistently in the interest of Lebanon, by first of all maintaining its presence in all its forms in this friendly country with which we have strong bonds of friendship.

The presence in Beirut of our embassy and staff, as well as that of the French community represented here, testify to the unflinching willingness of France to defend law against blind force and to defend traditional French-Lebanese friendship.

Mr Ambassador, I hereby ask you to be my interpreter by extending to the injured my wishes of speedy recovery, particularly to Pedro Alvarez, who on behalf of the president we are making a knight of the National Order of Merit.

Mr Ambassador, I am asking you to transmit to the families the condolences of the president and the Government of France. I pray you to express to them all our sincere sympathy. I personally bow to the pains of the families represented here.

TEXT OF PREMIER MAUROY'S STATEMENT TO PRESS

AB271723 Paris Diplomatic Information Service in French 1100 GMT 27 May 82

[Statement by French Premier Pierre Mauroy to the Lebanese press in Beirut on 26 May]

[Text] By coming to Beirut today, I wanted -- in the name of the French Government -- to pay tribute to the victims of the odious outrage committed on the premises of our embassy 2 days ago. I am also here to pay tribute to all those who, since the assassination of Louis Delamare a year ago, paid with their life for the honor of representing France in Lebanon.

Despite the difficulties and dangers, the diplomatic and cultural personnel, the teachers, the soldiers and all the others continue to ensure the permanent French presence in this friendly land torn apart by calamity. I was anxious to bring in person the testimony of the French Government's gratitude and solidarity. Apart from my fellow countrymen whom I have just greeted, it is to Lebanon as a whole that through my voice France intends to bring a message of solidarity. It is this message that I have just transmitted to President Sarkis.

Tradition and history have woven so very close bonds of friendship between our two countries that France feels intimately concerned with the tragedy which Lebanon has experienced for too many years. The relations between our two peoples are among the most long standing; they date back to the beginning of modern history.

Although everyone is well aware of the role being played here by the French teachers, and particularly the religious persons, one often forgets that as far back as the 16th century two Lebanese scholars, El-Shyumi and Ibrahim al Haklani, who were translators and linguists, were appointed professors at the College de France.

In 1860, France was at the side of the Lebanese to preserve their identity and their autonomy within the Ottoman Empire. In 1864, Lebanon's autonomy was recognized by six European powers on the initiative of France.

Lastly, with the support for an independent Lebanon, the modern Lebanese State was created. Then a consensus made it possible for the various Lebanese communities to establish a democratic multiparty state.

So, France remains associated with the existence of a state to whose creation it has contributed, and to which it is linked by a longstanding friendship. But this history belongs to everyone and I have not come to claim it. It is up to the Lebanese themselves to map out their future through a new consensus.

Those ties are ties of centuries-old friendship. No one has the power to distrupt them, whatever means are used. That is what I have come to tell you today in Beirut on behalf of the Government of France.

France will remain at the side of Lebanon as long as your government and your people wish it.

The tradition linking us is so alive because it is based on a linguistic community which makes Lebanon a major cultural center.

A verbal and written press of great quality continues to actively contribute to this tradition and I pay homage to them today.

I must add that in a region where people, states and religious communities must learn how to live in peaceful coexistence, the equilibrum among the major religious communities, which was for a long time the unique to Lebanon, must be defended. France remains ready to help if everyone wants it to.

I believe -- as my talks here have confirmed -- that there is a great number of Christians and Muslims who wish this.

France also knows how much Lebanon is suffering from the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. That crisis poses a threat to your country. Does one here have to wish for the unity, the integrity and the sovereignty of Lebanon to be sentenced to death? [sentence as received]

Since the beginning of the crisis that plunged Lebanon into mourning, France has endeavored to support concretely the action of your government both toward its Arab partners and within the United Nations. That action is aimed at defending the sovereignty, the independence and the national unity of Lebanon. It is aimed at making right prevail over force in conformity with France's objectives.

Because of France's concept of international relations, as well as the longstanding friendship between our two peoples, it cannot and will not dissociate itself from the future of Lebanon, the integrity of its borders, the authority of its state and the sovereignty of its people. It is henceforth firmly prepared, in spite of the difficulties and risks involved, to provide aid and contribute to settling the tragedy of this country which, in the past, derived its influence from its location as a meeting point between two civilizations -- Islam on the one hand and Christianity on the other.

France is indeed not a Middle Eastern country. It is aware that Lebanon has to maintain privileged relations with its neighbors. But France is, like Lebanon, a Mediterranean country. And that sea which contributes to uniting us must again become the center of civilization which it used to be, for though it has been a region of conflicts, it was first a region of dialogue, thus a region of progress.

Last Monday, I had the opportunity to attend a colloquium on that theme held in Hydra, Greece. All participants, irrespective of their nationality, origin, language or religion had the awareness of belonging to the same community. These included some of the greatest writers, artists and intellectuals. I will only name a few names: Moroccan writer Tahar Benjelloun, Algerian poet Taieb Yacine, Turkish writer Yashar Kemal, Lebanese poet Adonis, Palestinian journalist Raymonde Tuwayil and Israel journalist Uri Avneri. They are Arabs, Lebanese, Israelis and Turks. In spite of conflict between the two nations, some Turks came to Greek soil. Israelis and Palestinians sat side by side. They all signed a common communication, the object of which is to bring together the people of the Mediterranean.

In coming to Beirut today, I also thought of them. We could not suspect at that time that only a few hours remained before the criminal attack on Monday.

I am sure they join in my appeal to the most fundamental values of our two civilizations -- values on which the rights of man are based, values which prompt us to unreservedly condemn criminal acts which, like the one perpetrated on Monday morning, have caused the death of too many innocent victims.

I have already had the opportunity -- alas in France, but also in Brussels -- to condemn the use of violence for political gains.

The digest of international law and the Vienna conventions signed after the World War II which established particular protection for the official missions of states, promoted undeniable progress in international relations. They abolished the right of recourse to force that used to be common practice. Privileges and immunity are the guarantee for this. They are the condition for peaceful relations among states.

When arms silence discussions, when terror is established as a form of government, when the state of emergency replaces a constitutional state, an embassy becomes the place where dialogue can be engaged in, a refuge for the persecuted, the discreet permanent sign of mutual recognition.

France has the duty of guaranteeing this gain of international law, and my presence in Beirut is intended to be beyond our two countries and our two peoples, an appeal to the whole international community.

It is first of all an appeal to the community in each state, for no one is safe from violations of international laws and no one can allow its diplomatic representation to be brought into question someday through violence.

It is also an appeal to liberation movements. I have not forgotten the heavy tribute they have paid to violence. History shows that before they can join the international community as independent states they must win political legitimacy through diplomatic recognition.

The position of France is clear: Whatever the motives and whoever the authors, even when we support or sympathize with the cause being defended, we cannot accept that a French or a foreign embassy, an accredited representation -- diplomatic personnel in the broad meaning of the word -- may become targets for deliberate acts of violence. It is then the international law which is flouted, world peace which is jeopardized.

We also feel this is also the case when in this or that country the privileges and immunity patiently gained by international laws are fraudulently used by certain agents who are diplomats in name only. Confronted with this type of situation, France took the appropriate measures, in strict accordance with international laws. France has the duty to call on the international community to be vigilant in this area and to display the greatest firmness in defending the law.

BUTRUS COMMENTS ON HAIG STATEMENT, MAUROY VISIT

NC271650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpts] The activities of the palace, government house and Foreign Ministry have been devoted to diplomatic moves and to their developments vis-a-vis the statements made by the French premier and by the U.S. secretary of state on the situation in Lebanon, and vis-a-vis the security in Beirut and the south.

The foreign minister has met at the Foreign Ministry with U.S. Ambassador Mr Robert Dillon who stated after the meeting that he gave Minister Butrus a copy of U.S. Secretary of State Gen Alexander Haig's statement.

After receiving the U.S. ambassador, Minister Butrus said:

[Begin recording] What I can say about this speech at this point, while reserving later comments -- if this is required after I see the speech -- is that, finally, the United States admits that the subject of Lebanon and the crisis of Lebanon constitute a priority which the world should tackle, in addition to the subject of the Iranian-Iraqi war and of the Palestinian issue and their right to self-determination. I can also say that, directly or indirectly, these matters are interconnected to some extent.

I might have a comment to make on this theory. However, I want to put on record the fact that, for the first time in 8 years, U.S. officials are admitting and agreeing that the Lebanese crisis exists in its own right, that it merits international attention, and that this crisis figures among the priorities which U.S. diplomacy should tackle -- not just for Lebanon's sake, or out of love for Lebanon and for its sons. However, the reason is that if this crisis is disregarded, it may lead to war, which might become a world war.

This is my most important comment at this point on the speech. As I have said, I reserve the right to comment in the future on this matter, particularly that the speech, while noting the importance of the Lebanese issue and while noting some aspects of this issue, does not contain positive and feasible proposals on the handling of this subject. However, this matter is deferred until after Philip Habib's visit to the area. Naturally, we will have an opinion on the U.S. view of the Lebanese question. We will also have an opinion on the remedies they propose. We might agree with them on some matters and disagree with them on others. This matter will be dealt with when it arises -- and I cannot anticipate matters at this juncture.

[Question] Your Excellency, Mr Minister: Concerning the French premier's visit yesterday and your meeting with him, what is your opinion about this visit?

[Answer] The French premier's visit to Lebanon yesterday was a brief one. It has more of a psychological significance than political meaning in the narrow sense. I mean that the visit was made to prove to the French Embassy staff that the French Government will not abandon them, to prove to the French community that the French Government is still there and stands prepared to use the means at its disposal to take an interest in their affairs, to prove to the Lebanese people and to the Lebanese Government that the attacks to which the French citizens or the French Embassy might be subjected will not affect French representation in Lebanon and will not affect the existing friendly Lebanese-French relations, and to prove that -- under all circumstances -- France is determined to discharge the tasks dictated by the good relations existing between France and Lebanon and by the diplomatic representation existing between the two countries. [end recording]

SHAM'UN CRITICIZES HAIG'S MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT

NC271624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un today demanded that U.S. policy move from words to action with regard to Lebanon. He said Lebanon's security depends on the existence of international pressure by the United States, Europe and other states to save Lebanon from military occupation. He added that what applies to U.S. policy also applies to French policy. Sham'un was replying to correspondents' questions concerning U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's speech and French Premier Pierre Mauroy's visit to Beirut.

SYRIAN-ROMANIAN JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED 26 MAY

JN262055 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1935 GMT 26 May 82

["Text" of joint statement on Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to Syria issued in Damascus on 26 May]

[Text] At the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, President Nicolae Ceausescu, Romanian Communist Party secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, paid an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic 25-26 May 1982.

During his visit, President Ceausescu laid a wreath on the martyrs tomb at the martyrs cemetery.

The two presidents held a series of meetings and official talks governed by an atmosphere of deep friendship, mutual understanding and respect. They discussed bilateral relations and a number of current international affairs of common interest, particularly the situation in the Middle East.

Attending the talks on the Romanian side were Gheorghe Oprea, first deputy prime minister; Aurel Duma, minister secretary of state of the government; Vasile Pungan, minister secretary of state and counselor to the president of the republic; Constantin Mitea, counselor to the president of the republic; and Grigore Comartin, Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

Attending on the Syrian side were Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, prime minister; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and Haytham Barakat, Syrian ambassador in Bucharest.

The two presidents exchanged information on their countries' efforts in economic and social construction. In this regard, President Ceausescu summarized the vast efforts of the Romanian people, who are rallying around the Romanian Communist Party, to bring about the establishment of a developed socialist society in various spheres, as well as the considerable success of the Romanian people in various social and economic fields.

President Hafiz al-Asad briefed the Romanian president on the accomplishments of the Syrian Arab people under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in building a growing economy, investing their natural resources and strengthening the country's means of defense, which serves the Syrian Arab people's prosperity.

The two presidents voiced their complete satisfaction with the vast and multifaceted development of solid relations of friendship and fruitful cooperation between Syria and Romania, something that agrees with the national interests of the two countries and peoples and serves the cause of international peace and cooperation.

The two sides noted the significant results of the agreements achieved during previous meetings held in Damascus and Bucharest and the implementation of the principles and documents of bilateral cooperation, which are in line with the joint declaration signed in Bucharest on 17 February 1981. The two sides asserted that the respect of and the sound adherence to the principles of national independence and sovereignty, mutual equal rights, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, the exchange of benefits and the right of each people to freely choose their means of development without any foreign interference form the solid basis for the continued promotion of relations between Syria and Romania.

The two sides gave special attention to the meeting between party and state officials of the two countries, the talks that were held at the highest levels and the joint agreements that helped to give impetus to Syrian-Romanian relations in all spheres. They assessed and expressed appreciation for the ongoing promotion of contacts between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Romanian Communist Party. The two sides underlined the determination of the Syrian and Romanian presidents to continue working to expand and diversify the bonds of strong friendship between the two countries and peoples. They agreed that these relations will expand by intensifying direct contacts and exchanging expertise in the fields of economic and social development.

In their talks, the two sides gave special importance to economic relations and emphasized the need to promote cooperation in all fields that benefit the two countries, to seek new methods and opportunities for expanding economic cooperation to have it cover new and different fields and to increase trade exchange. During the visit, agreement was reached on a protocol for developing economic cooperation and bilateral trade relations.

The two presidents expressed appreciation for the level and magnitude given to the cultural and technical cooperation and cultural exchange between the two countries and for the noticeable expertise in the two countries' mutual interest. They also expressed satisfaction with the consolidation of direct contacts and relations between the People's assembly and the professional, student and women's organizations as well as the activities of the friendship societies in both countries.

The two presidents exchanged views on current international issues and the development of events in the contemporary world. They noted that the development of international relations confirms the soundness of their assessment, which are contained in the joint official declaration signed in Bucharest on 7 September 1974, the joint statement signed in Damascus on 16 August 1979, the Syrian-Romanian joint declaration signed in Bucharest on 7 February 1981 and the other Syrian-Romanian joint documents.

The two presidents attached special importance to the grave and tense situation in the Middle East resulting from Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its insistence on disregarding UN resolutions and disavowing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights. The two presidents condemned Israel's decision to annex the occupied Syrian territories in the Golan. This decision is considered to be a new aggression against Syria. It is an illegal act of expansion that is null and void and represents a blatant violation of the principles of the nonacceptance of the forcible seizure of lands. It is a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of a independent state, a blatant violation of the UN Charter and resolutions and a serious threat to security and peace in the region and the world.

While reviewing current developments in the region, the two presidents stressed that the Arab-Israeli dispute cannot be dealt with in isolation from the Palestinian cause, which is the core of this dispute, or by removing the PLO, the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative.

The two presidents believe a comprehensive, just and lasting peace cannot be achieved unless it is based on Israel's complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination and the establishment of their independent state in accordance with UN resolutions on the Palestinian cause. In this respect, the two presidents stressed their determination to achieve a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The two sides strongly condemned Israel's measures in the occupied Arab territories, represented by annexation, oppression, persecution, the establishment of settlements, eviction, the violation of Arab historical and cultural properties, the violation of human rights, the measures of racial discrimination, killings, physical liquidation and deportation. In this respect, the two presidents expressed the solidarity of their two countries and peoples with the courageous struggle and heroic steadfastness of Arab citizens in the Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip against Israeli occupation.

The two sides reiterated their condemnation of Israel's continued aggression against Lebanon, its recurring aggression against Lebanese territories, its direct and indirect interference in its domestic affairs and the constant attempts to partition Lebanon, escalate tension in it and liquidate the Palestinians living on Lebanese territory. They reiterated their firm support for the legitimate Lebanese authorities to enable them to exercise their authority over all Lebanese territory and safeguard the country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The two sides agreed to pursue contacts between Syria and Romania and to hold bilateral consultations on important international issues of mutual interest whenever these are deemed necessary.

While reviewing the situation in Europe, President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, and President Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, noted the importance their two countries attach to the issue of establishing security and strengthening cooperation among the countries of this continent and to the positive results that emerge from this for the sake of peace and relaxation in the world. The two presidents expressed their anxiety over the current situation in Europe, where the arms race is being escalated and the most sophisticated means of mass destruction are being stockpiled, including the deployment of new medium-range nuclear missiles, instead of working to achieve disarmament, a matter which poses a serious threat to peace and security in the European Continent and the world at large.

The two sides referred to the special importance of the meetings of countries participating in the Madrid conference on security and cooperation in Europe and called for them to be held in a constructive atmosphere and to achieve positive results. They also called for the removal of all obstacles being put forward to obstruct these meetings.

They stressed the need for the Madrid conference to come out with resolutions that reiterate and fulfill the Helsinki principles and commitments, the need to expand free cooperation among European countries, particularly the insistence on adopting tangible measures for achieving military disengagement and disarmament and the need to hold a conference that will entrench confidence and the disarmament trend. They also stressed the need to hold a meeting on cooperation and security in this region of the world.

The two sides believe Mediterranean security is closely linked to European security. They believe appropriate concern must be given to this subject during the coming meeting that will discuss the issues of security and cooperation in Europe. In this respect, the two presidents highlighted the constructive role that may be played by non-European Mediterranean states in any future deliberations that may be held under the supervision of the Helsinki conference and in any measures related to the causes of the Mediterranean.

The two presidents underlined the importance of further developing relations of neighborliness and cooperation among the Balkan states and peoples and of maintaining this region as a zone of peace free from nuclear weapons, something that will reflect positively on the political situation in Europe.

The two sides believe the elimination of backwardness and the establishment of a new international economic system that would enable each state to develop and grow freely are among the main causes of our world. These causes necessitate the continuation of efforts to bring about a system based on just economic relations. They voiced their support for the developing countries' efforts to achieve economic freedom and to spread their national sovereignty over their natural resources to serve their peoples' interests. The two sides stressed the importance of greater cooperation among the developing countries and greater coordination, whether regarding negotiations with the developed countries or efforts to expand their economic cooperation.

After exchanging views on disarmament, the two sides voiced their serious apprehension over the continued arms race and the employment of material, financial and manpower resources for military objectives. This, the two sides stressed, constitutes a heavy burden and a serious threat to international peace and security. The two sides emphasized the importance of implementing practical and influential measures to attain a comprehensive elimination of nuclear weapons, since this is a precondition to achieving international security, reducing tension and improving international relations, something that will serve civilization and the future of mankind. Stemming from the special concern they feel toward the coming special session of the UN General Assembly, which will discuss the elimination of arms, the two sides expressed the desire of their two countries to contribute to the creation of resolutions that meet people's hopes of putting an end to the policy of armament.

The two sides expressed their solidarity with and support for the struggle to end colonialism, neocolonialism and racial discrimination in Africa. They noted the importance of immediately ending the South African occupation of Namibia, the withdrawal of South African forces from Namibia, the implementation of UN resolutions in this respect and the transfer of power in Namibia to the true representatives of the people there, SWAPO. They also called for an end to South Africa's aggressive practices against Angola and Mozambique.

The two presidents noted with concern the increasing tension in the world and noted that most of mankind is interested in securing freedom and independence for all states and peoples and helping them stand firm in the face of imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, the policy of force and the attempts to increase international tension. They underlined the need for working with a feeling of great responsibility to eliminate all hotbeds in the world. This serves the interests of all peoples and is in accordance with the issues of detente and international cooperation.

The two sides highly assessed the role of the Nonaligned Movement in tackling current international affairs and presenting suitable solutions for the present problems. They expressed the hope that this movement's role will be further consolidated in order to serve the peoples who are struggling for the sake of their liberation and national independence as well as their economic and social progress. The two sides also stressed the importance of increasing the role of the United Nations and other international organizations in resolving the complicated international issues.

The two presidents highly evaluated their dialogues and the outcome of their talks in Damascus, which will further strengthen bilateral cooperation and relations. They expressed their joint desire to continue this dialogue and the exchange of viewpoints on all levels.

President Nicolae Ceausescu expressed his great thanks to President al-Asad and the Syrian people for the cordial hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay in Damascus. He invited President Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th party secretary general and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, to pay an official and friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Romania. The invitation was accepted with appreciation. A date for the visit will be fixed later.

Damascus, 26 May 1982

IRANIAN OIL MINISTER, DELEGATION VISIT DAMASCUS

JN271030 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 27 May (SANA) -- A meeting was held here yesterday evening between Dr 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Duhhak, Syrian minister of oil and natural resources, and Mohammad Gharazi, Iranian petroleum minister. The two sides discussed various subjects connected with implementing the contract to purchase Iranian oil that was concluded between the two countries. They also reviewed the various means of cooperation in this field, including the establishment of a joint fleet for transporting oil as well as for other transport operations that would contribute to bolstering the economy of both countries.

The two sides agreed to exchange the visits of delegations in the technical field to strengthen horizens of cooperation between Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi arrived in Damascus yesterday morning heading a delegation comprising a number of energy conservation and technical specialists. The delegation was received at Damascus International Airport by Syrian Oil Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar ad-Dahhak, his assistants and other senior ministry officials.

Meet With Al-Asad

JN271128 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received the Iranian delegation currently visiting Syria at 1000 today. The delegation is headed by Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi, Iran's ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

USSR'S ARKHIPOV SIGNS AGREEMENTS, DEPARTS 27 MAY

JN271530 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1000 today after a 3-day visit to Syria during which they met with President al-Asad.

Seeing Arakhipov off at Damascus International Airport were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; Gen Kihmat ash-Shihabi, chief of staff of the army and armed forces; Nasir Qaddur, assitant foreign minister; the air force commander; Hamid Mar'i, assistant minister of state for planning affairs; Vladimir Yukhin, Soviet ambassador in Damascus; and a number of the socialist states' ambassadors in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Arkhipov expressed his deep thanks to Syrian officials for the warm welcome accorded to the Soviet delegation during its stay in Damascus. He indicated that the Soviet delegation's visit to Syria, which came in response to the Syrian Government's invitation, aimed at consolidating and developing the various aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries. He praised the positive spirit that prevailed during the meetings and that stressed the two sides' desire to develop bilateral relations in all fields.

Syria and the USSR signed several agreements at the Foreign Ministry today. They were signed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Members of the two negotiating delegations attended the signing ceremony, which was held in a very cordial atmosphere.

The SANA correspondent has learned these agreements will consolidate and develop cooperation between Syria and the USSR in all fields.

Khaddam and Arkhipov exchanged cordial speeches on this occasion and expressed their deep satisfaction with the development of relations between the two friendly countries. They stressed their determination to continue developing these relations in the interest of the two friendly countries.

AL-AYYUBI CONFERS WITH GDR FRONT DELEGATION

JN271121 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 27 May (SANA) -- Comrade Mahmud al-Ayyubi, deputy chairman of the Progressive National Front [PNF], last night received the GDR National Front delegation, headed by Kirchhoff, vice president of the front, which is currently visiting Syria at the invitation of the PNF.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the talks the two delegations held on 25 May. They also reviewed existing relations and the means of developing them in the interest of the two friendly countries.

Kirchhoff expressed his appreciation and that of the friendly GDR people for Syria's militant stands under President al-Asad in the face of imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plans.

Comrade al-Ayyubi expressed his appreciation and those of the PNF in Syria for the GDR's stand in support of just Arab issues.

Comrade 'Ala' ad-Dinn 'Abidin, PNF Central Committee member and secretary of the Ba'th Party Damascus branch, received Kirchhoff yesterday.

TRADE UNION DELEGATION RETURNS FROM GDR 27 MAY

JN271712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, Ba'th Party Regional Command member and president of the General Federation of Trade Unions, returned to Damascus today following a visit to the GDR at the head of a trade union delegation.

AL-AHMAR MEETS WITH CSSR AMBASSADOR IN DAMASCUS

JN271039 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Damascus, 27 May (SANA) -- Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received Ducan Ulcak, CSSR Ambassador in Damascus, this morning. During the meeting, talks focused on the relations of cooperation and friendship between the Ba'th Party and the Czechslovak Communist Party and between the two friendly countries. The two sides discussed the executive measures of the cooperation program between the two parties.

SHARON'S REMARKS ON ARMS TO IRAN EXPLAINED

TA271858 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] This evening government sources told our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's remarks in the United States last night [concerning arms supplies to Iran] were made in view of publicity there aimed at countering Israel's lobbying against the proposed sale of sophisticated arms to Jordan.

As will be recalled, Minister Sharon confirmed reports that Israel had extended aid to Iran in its war against Iraq and that the arms on board the aircraft detained in New York were intended for Ecuador.

According to the government sources, the Saudi propaganda machine and Pentagon officials who want Jordan to be armed are exploiting the defense minister's remarks in order to present Israel as an unscrupulous arms dealer acting contrary to U.S. interests.

Nonetheless, our political correspondent has learned that some Cabinet ministers have criticized the defense minister's remarks, fearing the impact of these statements on the U.S. administration and on U.S. public opinion. Those ministers intend to raise the issue for discussion at the Cabinet session next Sunday.

Shinuy MK Mordekhay Virshubsky today approached Prime Minister Menahem Begin with a request that at the Cabinet session on Sunday he establish a procedure to forestall sensitive leaks and irresponsible use of confidential information. MK Virshubsky also asked the prime minister to make it clear whether he had authorized the disclosure of the sale of Israeli arms to Iran and to specify the steps he will take against Minister Sharon if he was not authorized to make those statements.

HA'ARETZ COMMENTS ON COOPERATION MEMORANDUM

TA271000 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 82 p 13

[Commentary by 'Uzi Benziman: "A Reminder of the Memorandum of Understanding"]

[Text] Yesterday and the day before yesterday Ari'el Sharon devoted most of his talks in Washington to examining U.S. willingness to renew the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation with Israel. In this way he contributed his share to the rehabilitation of a process connected with his name about 6 months ago and which burst like a soap bubble with the government's decision to extend Israeli law to the Golan Heights.

Sharon went to Washington after quiet clarifications had been conducted over the last few weeks between Israel and the United States about the possibility of renewing the agreement: to link the two countries with a memorandum on strategic cooperation. The clarifications made recently showed that the Reagan administration is indeed prepared to renew the agreement made at the beginning of December 1981. The official explanation the administration will give to justify the change in its position is that the memorandum of strategic cooperation was never cancelled, only suspended. The time has now come to cancel the suspension.

On the surface, Menahem Begin and Ari'el Sharon are entitled to a smile of satisfaction: The political move they wanted and to which they attributed such great importance -- Israel and the United States signing an agreement on strategic coordination -- has been revived. The excuse for this suspension -- the annexation of the Golan Heights -- has in effect been erased. The result: the Golan Heights has officially become part of Israel and the strategic memorandum has again become an important foundation of Israel's foreign policy.

It is impossible to completely negate the feeling of satisfaction pervasive in Mr Begin's office. Anyone who supports a policy of force -- bombing the nuclear reactor in Iraq, annexing the Golan Heights, enacting the Jerusalem law -- and realizes that international punishments imposed on him are dissipating, is entitled to be encouraged for the approach he is taking. The results of that policy of force are tangible: the nuclear reactor has been destroyed, the Golan Heights has become part of Eretz Yisra'el, the status of Jerusalem as the capital has been confirmed by Knesset legislation.

From the international aspect (and, for the purpose of these comments, we will ignore the amount of practical benefit from the Golan Heights annexation law and the Jerusalem law), these moves by Israel were grave provocations. In fact it turns out that the world has accepted them. The frequency of visits to Israel by official, high-level guests is increasing, Costa Rica is returning its embassy to Jerusalem and feverish attempts are now being made to convince other countries to follow in its footsteps, Zaire has agreed to renew its diplomatic ties with Israel and the United States is also returning the situation to what it was previously and showing a willingness to renew the strategic memorandum. Nevertheless, this interpretation of the results of Israeli moves may be misleading. A policy of force has severe limitations and we would do well not to ignore them.

The U.S. willingness to discuss the renewal of the strategic memorandum comes against the background of its fears of extremist Israeli actions on the Lebanese border. Washington is using the strategic memorandum as a means to curb Israeli plans to deliver an enormous blow to the PLO and restrain those in the Cabinet who are advocating such a policy.

The efficacy of U.S. policy on this issue was recently proved when the government adopted a policy of self-restraint on the northern border after it had previously decided on a military action. The Reagan administration is returning to its original position: The two countries can be linked in a document that proposes cooperation in the strategic field, but its significance must be mutual. The United States expects that Israel will not confront it with faits accomplis, on the lines of the law annexing the Golan Heights or a massive Israeli strike against PLO bases in Lebanon.

It is obvious that further discussions will be held between Israel and the United States about the scope and significance of the memorandum of strategic understanding. The talks Sharon held in Washington this week on this issue were intended to examine the possibility of completing the contacts by next month in order to permit Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Reagan to declare -- during the prime minister's upcoming visit to the United States -- the renewal of the memorandum.

When the memorandum was signed, criticism was leveled at the price Israel paid for it: standing up openly against the Soviet Union while accepting generalized and noncommittal formulations contained in the memorandum. Ari'el Sharon, chief sponsor of the document, claimed 6 months ago that its benefit was enormous:

It would provide Israel with an important political status in the international community; it would guarantee practical cooperation between Israel and the United States on the African Continent; it would give Israel a considerable slice of the procurement budgets of the U.S. Army; it would improve Israel's intelligence capability; it would pave the way to U.S. investments in development programs in Israel, and open new export markets to Israeli industry and so on.

If the memorandum is really intended to have such a positive significance as Sharon described last December, it would be a pity to lose it. Anyone who now wants to renew the strategic memorandum's validity must take into account the recompense expected by the United States for its willingness to shower on Israel the flood of benefits enumerated by Sharon.

It is true -- as Israel claims that in the strategic memorandum -- it has equal status with the United States; it is true government representatives are, on the surface, demonstrating satisfaction with the possibility of the memorandum being renewed and stressing that it is not Israel that will initiate the move, but the United States; it is true Israel is declaring that it will not bind its own hands by signing the document -- but everyone [including Messrs Reagan, Haig and Weinberger] knows that Begin, Sharon and their colleagues in the Cabinet are very interested in turning the wheel of events back to the situation that prevailed at the beginning of December 1981, when Sharon returned from Washington and proudly announced the historic achievement in the form of the memorandum of understanding.

Anyone who is interested -- even if only in the status of an equal among equals -- in signing a memorandum with the United States cannot expect that Washington's rights should be less than his own. Anyone who decides upon strategic coordination with a superpower must take the latter's expectations into account. Anyone who refuses to do this would do better to not fan hopes only to be disillusioned afterward.

BEERSHEBA BLAST SUSPECTED WORK OF 'TERRORISTS'

TA271921 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Security officials believe the antitank [as heard] mine that exploded in Beersheba this morning was a terrorist act and that Beersheba was selected as the venue for the terrorist act because it is located on the road leading from Jedaea to the Gaza Strip.

This morning a Mack fuel truck ran over an antitank mine planted in the city's neighborhood bet. As a result of the explosion the truck was damaged, but the driver escaped unscathed.

Our correspondent 'Ofer Taler reports that after the blast all the dirt roads around Beersheba were searched, and the police are asking the public to avoid driving along dirt roads unless necessary.

Commander of the Southern Command, Maj Gen Hayim Erez, arrived at the scene not long after the explosion -- the third this month. About a month ago a mine discovered in neighborhood Alef was defused by a police sapper without causing any damage. Last week a bomb was defused in neighborhood Daled.

JORDAN BLACKLISTS 19 WEST BANK DIGNITARIES

TA271544 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] The Jordanian Government has published a blacklist of 19 dignitaries from the area village leagues in Judaea and Samaria accused of cooperating with Israeli authorities. The list was given to government offices in Amman and they were forbidden from receiving any document from those included on it.

A month ago Jordan imposed death sentences upon all members of the area village leagues.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL DENIES BORDER CROSSING PROBLEMS

TA271840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] An Egyptian liaison officer at the Tabah crossing south of Elat has denied that there are any bureaucratic difficulties in crossing the border. He said anybody carrying a valid passport may enter the Sinai and there is no need for special papers from the Egyptian consul in Elat. According to the officer some 600 tourists, including Israelis, have crossed the border into the Sinai to date.

KIMCHE REPORTS MOBUTU UNMOVED BY ARAB REACTIONS

TA270852 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 May 82 p 2

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche reported yesterday to the prime minister and the foreign minister on the talks he held recently with Zairian President Mobutu and on his visit to other African countries.

In Kimche's opinion, Mobutu is completely unmoved by the sharp Arab reactions that came with the renewal of Zaire's diplomatic relations with Israel. However, at the same time, Mobutu has asked Israel to use its influence on various Western elements, and especially the United States, to offer him economic and other aid instead of the aid he had been receiving from Arab countries.

It appears Israel will indeed accede to this request by Mobutu.

David Kimche spent 3 days in Kinshasa and 1 day in the other African country. [as published]

YEDI'OT AHARONOT ON ZAIRIAN EXPECTATIONS

TA271150 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 May 82 p 9

[Article by Zaire correspondent Edwin Eytan: "Zaire Is Expecting Israeli Aid"]

[Excerpts] Israel's prestige is great in African eyes. African leaders, and even the middle class, regard Israelis as economic, social and diplomatic miracle workers. The Israeli soldiers are considered to be "immune to bullets," as the Africans say.

The Israelis, who opened secret contacts with General Mobutu several years ago, have never made him any promises they did not feel they could keep. Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who visited Kinshasa for the first time on 20 May 1981, exactly 1 year before the Israeli flag was flown over the embassy building, has never promised or committed himself to anything that Israel would not be able to fulfill. According to officials in Zaire, he repeatedly confirmed that Israel itself is poor and has no spare cash and it is hardly capable of meeting its own needs. He explained that, with regard to all the rest, Israel "will do the best it can." However, it is very possible that there is a great difference between what appears to him and what appears to them to be the "best it can."

Israel and Zaire have signed several official agreements on Israeli aid to be extended. Zairian officials close to Mobutu believes Israel is capable of helping him in the following fields.

-- Opening gates and hearts in the United States. Zaire needs U.S. aid and support. Its southern neighbor is Marxist Angola; in the north it borders on Chad, which is awash with troubles. Mobutu also knows that only the United States is capable of supplying the level of financial and economic aid that will have an effect, even if only a small one, on the economy of his country, which is in a depression. Zairian economists speak of $1 billion a year as the minimum sum that can be put to efficient use. An amount less than this would be wasted, almost certainly, because it would be used to cover the immediate, urgent needs.

At the beginning of this month the U.S. Congress, after much red tape, approved aid to Zaire totalling $4 million a year. In his speech on 14 May in which he announced the renewal of ties with Israel, Mobutu launched a venemous attack on the United States and, in fact, severed all aid contacts. Mobutu believes Israel is capable of rapidly and dramatically changing this state of affairs and that the Israeli "lobby" and the U.S. Jewish community are capable of getting from Congress and the White House what his own personnel have not succeeded in getting.

It is almost certain that American Jews are profoundly grateful to Mobutu for his action and will try to help him. However, his needs and expectations are of such dimensions that there is a danger he will be disappointed. U.S. diplomats told me in Kinshasa that, according to the State Department's evaluation, even at best Congress will only approve a tiny part of what Zaire is aking for:

-- Agricultural aid, in order for the population of Zaire, 30 million, to be able to grow most of the food it needs. The 25 million who live in the "bush" manage to guarantee their minimal food needs by cultivating a plot of land, fishing, or from time to time, slaughtering a miserable monkey (whose head is considered to be a delicacy); the problem is Kinshasa and Lubumbashi (formerly Elizabethville), where there are masses of hungry people and millions suffering from unemployment of underemployment. A serious crisis or shortage of food in the towns could led to an uprising. Hunger riots could jeopardize Mobutu's regime, which is at the moment uncontested.

For the last 4 years Israeli experts have been managing a state farm in (Nesla), about 30 km from Kinshasa. The 10 Israeli experts and the tiny group of Belgian Jews who deal with administrative matters have succeeded in producing 60,000 eggs and 6,000 chicks a day, 600 tons of meat a month, as well as milk and vegetables. The farm, which in the past was a failure and brought financial losses, has flourished and is even turning a profit; today it supplies part -- a small part, it is true -- of Kinshasa's needs. Two other agricultural outposts, one in the far south and the other near Lubumbashi, have also been developed with the help of Israeli experts. Mobutu thinks Israel will be able to supply him with the key to solving his agricultural problems. However, in this field, too, the dimensions of the problem are such that many -- including Israeli experts, as well -- are doubtful as to whether all their efforts will be more than a drop in the ocean. Even the produce from the farm in (Nesla) -- whose quality is high and whose prices are relatively low -- is being bought, in the final analysis, by the social and economic elite.

Local agriculture -- other than a few farms under foreign ownership, mostly Belgian -- is so primitive that the Israeli methods might not bring results. Zaire has no real agricultural policy and it has no transport system to carry the agricultural produce to the towns. In his rield, too, its problems are huge and involve changes in the social and tribal system and the establishment of a network of railroads and roads.

-- Training and equipping the Zairian Armed Forces. Mobutu, like other African presidents, lives in constant fear of attempts to overthrow his regime and kill him. The greatest threat is always from the army. Mobutu himself served as chief of staff when be began the revolution that helped put him in power.

In the past, the Zairian Army, which numbers 60,000 soldiers, has been weak and inefficient. Some time ago it was necessary for French paratroopers to intervene to suppress the rebellion in the Kolwezi region and to save the Europeans -- several of whom had been murdered -- living there. There are several Chinese and even North Koreans active in the Zairian Army. Mobutu is interested in having foreign military advisers, such as the French and Belgians, but he wants the number of countries to be as large as possible so that no single country will have control over the army and, through it, over the entire country.

The president wants Israel to train at least one paratroop brigade that will be able to act as the country's elite unit and as an unofficil presidential guard.

NIGERIAN SAYS RELATIONS TO BE RESUMED 'SOON'

TA261617 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 May 82 p 2

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Text] "Nigeria will soon resume relations with Israel. There is no sense of logic in having severed diplomatic relations at a time when many Nigerian citizens visit Israel -- as pilgrims and for business -- and Israeli companies operate openly in Nigeria," Chief (Ogunsula), one of Nigeria's notables who is now visiting Israel, said yesterday.

"Since Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai," said Chief (Ogunsula), "Nigeria has no justification for denying itself the advantages promised by normal relations with Israel. Israeli companies operating in Nigeria receive much praise for the aid they extend to Nigeria as far as the economy, agriculture and construction is concerned."

He went on to say that Libya and Saudi Arabia have recently put great pressure on the president of Nigeria and that the ruling party in Nigeria -- which represents the Muslim majority in this country -- complied with requests from Arab countries and froze the idea of resuming relations with Israel. However, he explained, in the elections in Nigeria in May 1983 the issue of resuming relations with Israel must be discussed.

In response to a question on the economic damage Arab states might inflict on Nigeria if it resumed relations with Israel, Chief (Ogunsala) said: "We never received any real benefit from our relations with Arab states. Nigeria is a member of OPEC -- but we never received any mony from it. We do not like external directives as to who should be our enemies and friends. It is Nigeria's own interests that determine that."

The chief would like to organize a tour of Israel by Nigerian reporters and is requesting that persons who would be responsible for such a visit officially invite a group of media representatives to Israel. He is willing to help Israeli media representatives who visit his country.

UNIFIL SOLDIERS ATTACKED; FRENCH BATTALION ARRIVES

TA280608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 May 82

[Text] In south Lebanon unidentified gunmen yesterday opened fire on Irish troops serving with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the area. The fire was returned. The UNIFIL spokesman said their assailants fired rifles and light machineguns for about 30 minutes before withdrawing northward. None of the Irish soldiers were injured. The attack took place some 15 km north of the border with Israel.

A 600-man French battalion is expected to arrive in Lebanon today to serve as part of the UN peacekeeping force. A spokesman said that the French battalion will be equipped with nine armored personnel carriers in addition to mortars and antitank missiles. The arrival of the contingent will boost the total UN force in Lebanon to about 7,000 troops.

DEMANDS ON FRENCH UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT DETAILED

TA271116 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 82 p 2

[Text] Israel demands that the French force that is to join UNIFIL not be positioned near Major Haddad's enclave for fear that this would in the course of time cause friction between the two sides and indirectly also with Israel. Instead Israel has suggested that the French force be stationed in the area where a French unit was located in 1978, near Tyre.

The vanguard of the French force has arrived in Lebanon and it will be followed by the entire battalion, 800 soldiers.

The dispute over the French battalion's deployment site began immediately after it was learned that the French were going to send a unit to reinforce UNIFIL. The Palestinians and the Lebanese Government demand that the French battalion be stationed in the eastern sector, in the area known as a "gap," between the villages of At-Tayyibah and Balat. This area was defined as a possible breakthrough point of the IDF into Lebanese territory north of the zone where UNIFIL is located.

Israel, in contrast, does not want the French to be stationed near Haddad's forces. Similar opposition was raised in the past by Israel regarding the stationing of forces of other friendly countries.

The final decision on the deployment of the French force is in the hands of the UNIFIL commander, General Callaghan. It has for the time being determined that at this stage the French force will be positioned near the Nigerian unit located west of the "gap" and as far as the ('Aqiyah) bridge on the Litani River. General Callaghan will decide where to transfer the French force later on.

SOURCES VIEW PAKISTANI, IRAQI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

TA271912 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Reliable Western sources have told our defense affairs correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay that Pakistan has reached the stage where it can conduct a nuclear test any time it wants to. If it carries out a successful nuclear test Pakistan will join the group of countries enjoying a nuclear-military capability, such as India.

However, unlike Pakistan, Iraq has so far failed in its attempts to rebuild the nuclear reactor near Baghdad that was destroyed in the Israeli Air Force raid a year ago. Ever since then, Iraq has been trying to renew its nuclear cooperation agreement with France but so far President Mitterrand has refused to sell Iraq enriched uranium suitable for the production of a nuclear bomb. The negotiations between the Governments of France and Iraq over this continues, according to the sources.

Our correspondent reports that since the nuclear reactor was destroyed on the eve of the Festival of the Tabernacles last year the installation has remained completely paralyzed and no one is working there. The Iraqis are now trying to promote their nuclear bomb plan by hiring scientists from the United States and Western Europe.

Our correspondent points out that the head of the IDF intelligence branch, Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi, said in a newspaper interview some time ago that the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor did not eliminate the nuclear danger to Israel, but merely postponed it to the 1990's. He added Israel faces a nuclear danger as long as there is an infrastructure of nuclear scientists and researchers in Arab countries.

ALGERIA

MINISTER IBRAHIMI MEETS IRANIAN, IRAQI ENVOYS

LD272048 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister Ahmed Talib Ibrahimi received Iranian Ambassador to Algeria Mohammad Mahdi Kurali. Shortly after this meeting he received Iraqi Ambassador to Algeria (Fayiz 'Awni Bakr Sudqi) [title as heard]. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf.

LIBYA

ARGENTINA'S GALTIERI SENDS MESSAGE TO AL-QADHDHAFI

LD272306 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 May 82

["Text" of message from Argentine President Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi -- date not given]

[Text] To Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the great 1 September Revolution:

Our people's struggle for liberation today urgently requires the solidarity of spiritual forces which alone is capable of confronting the heretical imperialism and materialism which is destroying our civilization. In the name of the Argentine nation I greet through Your Excellency the Libyan people who know how to wage the battle of faith and belief to save the religious and spiritual values and morals of Islamic society from certain destruction. There is nothing more important and honorable in the life of men than the battles they wage for the salvation and protection of their dignity from all forms of [word indistinct] subjugation and colonialism.

I express to you our admiration for your great revolution, which is inspired by the glorious Koran and the esteemed Islamic religion and which fulfilled the national will and accomplished the serious task which providence had wished for it -- to be a lasting example and model for the entire Arab world and all the free peoples in the world.

At these fateful moments in the history of the Argentine nation and of the whole of Latin America, which decided years ago to secure and consolidate its spiritual character in confronting aggressive imperialism, I affirm to Your Excellency our determination to confront with bravery and faith the forces of treason and aggression. Our state has suffered from the treacherous and cunning aggression of the heretical colonialist forces which are hostile to the values of Christianity, which Your Excellency understands very well. I want to thank you for your sincere and brave attitude toward the unjust war to which we are subjected and whose ordeals we suffer, and we are confident that our steadfastness and struggle has the same meaning and values as the holy war in Islam.

We beseech Almighty God and His prophet Muhammad to inspire you and strengthen you so you may complete your sacred and inevitable task for the glory of Islam and Muslims and unite us with him in faith and belief and support us with His glory for the triumph of our just cause and for the liberation and sovereignty of our people and homeland.

May God, his prophet and the Virgin Mary protect you on the road of right and jihad.

[Signed] Lieutenant General Galtieri

MAURITANIA

HAYDALA DEPARTS TO ATTEND ECOWAS SUMMIT

AB271528 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, left Nouakchott early this afternoon for Cotonou, in the People's Republic of Benin, where he is expected to participate in the deliberations of the seventh summit of heads of state of ECOWAS. He was accompanied by a delegation.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR HAVANA MEETING

AB271557 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] Maj Ahmed Ould Mennaya, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and member of the Military Committee for National Salvation, left this morning for Havana, Cuba. The minister, who is participating in the deliberations of nonaligned foreign ministers conference, was accompanied by a delegation.

SUDAN

HIGH-LEVEL ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES

NC271118 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 May (SUNA) -- A high-level Ethiopian delegation headed by (Burhanu Taye), member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and head of the Foreign Relations Committee, arrived in Khartoum at 1100 today on a visit of several days to Sudan.

The Ethiopian official is carrying a message from Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC chairman in Ethiopia, for President Numayri dealing with bilateral relations. He will also meet with a number of state officials during his visit.

TUNISIA

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS COUNTERPART

LD271306 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held talks this morning with Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi. After the meeting, the Saudi minister stated they discussed bilateral relations and the current international situation. He described his talks with Mr Caid es-Sebsi as useful. He added the current situation required intensive contacts and consultations especially with sister countries such as Tunisia with the aim of unifying outlooks and stands.

Delivers Message From King

LD272252 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] Tunis, 27 May (SPA) -- Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today received a message from King Khalid dealing with bilateral relations, the current situation in the Arab world and need for an Arab unanimous stand.

The message was conveyed to the Tunisian president by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Prince Saud, who arrived here from Algiers this morning, also conferred with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi on developing bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab region.

He described his talks with Mr es-Sebsi as "very useful."

ETHIOPIA

NEW ELF LEADER COMMENTS ON INTERNAL DIFFERENCES

PM261407 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 82 p 3

[Mahir 'Abbas report on an interview with 'Abdallah Idris, leader of the ELF Revolutionary Council: "A Dialogue With the New ELF Leader" -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Jidda -- The Eritrean armed struggle movement has recently had a violent shock and a kind of a setback with conflicts among the various factions and fronts of the revolution. This has had repercussions, not only internally but also in relation to the reputation of the revolution in Arab and international circles.

The differences of opinion among the various fronts, rather than leading to a dialogue with a view to reaching agreement, have resulted in armed clashes among them, and the revolution has suffered a military and political setback.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has interviewed struggler 'Abdallah Idris, the new leader of the ELF Revolutionary Council, who assumed the leadership after an emergency meeting held by the council on 26 March. Former front leader Ahmad Nasir and four others were held in custody. The four are executive committee member (Tisfay Wildi Mikha'il) and Revolutionary Council members Khalifah, 'Uthman and (Ibrahim Tutil).

The ELF leader says that the changes were necessary and represented a serious and responsibile attempt to meet the challenges facing the armed struggle movement. He adds: This is why our first task since 26 March has been the strengthening of our military and political capabilities. Our position is crystal clear. We insist on armed struggle as the only basic way to freedom.

[Question] You, that is, the various factions of the revolution, have recently been engaged in fighting each other and in settling accounts, forgetting the main objective of the revolution. How accurate is this assessment?

[Answer] The truth is that we have had a number of local and internal problems, such as the military confrontation with the Popular Front and the "Ethiopian Tegre Alliance." I want to stress here that we had not prepared our army for a confrontation with brother Eritrean fighters. We had an agreement with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea and the popular liberation forces. We were in fact surprised by the campaign and the conflict, which have harmed the revolution and played directly into Ethiopia's hands.

[Question] What in your opinion poses a threat to the revolution and its unity?

[Answer] We believe the alliance between the Popular Front and the Tegre movement constitutes a threat to the revolution and hinders its progress, because it raises peripheral problems, such as calling for a new discussion on Eritrea's political map and territorial integrity. All these are new issues and additional problems. Furthermore, they push the revolution toward sectarian fanaticism which is harmful to the struggle.

[Question] What was the cause of the disagreement within your own front?

[Answer] The disagreement was over the problems and means of implementing the front's policies at home and abroad and of developing the armed struggle. This created certain complications for the armed struggle movement, and some confusion ensued. We held some meetings and managed to overcome these difficulties, and we produced a new leadership to save the front and revive its role.

[Question] After your emergency meeting in March, did you consider having a dialogue with the other groups in the Eritrean armed struggle?

[Answer] Our main aim is to mold the various separate struggles into one united struggle against Ethiopia. In our first statement we underscored the importance and necessity of unity, and the importance of gearing all efforts to the main target. Thus contacts have been initiated between us and the other organizations, especially the popular liberation forces and the revolutionary committee. There are Sudanese attempts to arrange a meeting between us and the popular front some time in the future.

[Question] Anyone observing the struggle among you can see only a group of crossed wires and a lack of unity. Whatever happened to the agreements concluded between you and other organizations?

[Answer] These attitudes have had an impact on our position at home and abroad, but I wish to emphasize that the coming period will see unified and coordinated action against Ethiopia.

As for the previous agreements, the Arab League managed to bring the various factions together in Tunis last year and we signed a joint action agreement, but it was not implemented and the revolution did not reap the fruits of that agreement. I believe it is still possible to revive the agreements with a number of practical steps and with concerted efforts by all the Arab brothers.

[Question] How do you view the treaty signed recently by Libya, Ethiopia and Aden?

[Answer] The attitude of Al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan regime is contradictory. Al-Qadhdhafi used to deal with any group he liked when we were divided. He had strong connections with the popular liberation forces. Today we see him supporting the Ethiopian regime. We have sent a note to the Arab League condemning Al-Qadhdhafi's attitude and the agreement and drawing attention to the threat the agreement poses to the security of the Red Sea. I want to make it clear here that the socialist camp, particularly the Soviet Union and Cuba, are trying to dominate us because they want to be able to reach other areas and include them in their own strategy. The Soviet Union's declared support for the world liberation movements is only a cover. Its real aim is to serve its own interests alone, directly or through its agents in the region.

[Question] A final question: What fate awaits the front's former leader Ahmad Nasir?

[Answer] He will be released soon and he will participate in the third national congress. We do not believe in vengeance or liquidation, because we were all partners in the past and we are comrades in arms in the service of Eritrea and independence.

UGANDA

OBOTE SPEAKS OF SECURITY INCIDENTS, PROBLEMS

EA272320 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 27 May 82

[Speech by President Milton Obote in Bushenyi on the second anniversary of his return from exile -- live]

[Excerpts] We are struggling for the unity of Uganda. We remember the symbol of our party, the open hand. We have Ankole, Baganda, Acholi. We have got Protestants, we have got Catholics and we have got Muslims. [passage indistinct]

We shall struggle as hard as possible to unite this country. We want peace in Uganda. We want peace in Africa. We want peace in the world. And we have shown to the people of Uganda that we really believe in what we say.

After liberation [words indistinct] there were gunmen in every district. I have been to northern regions and to eastern regions. Recently I was in Kabale. I have found peace everywhere. The vice president has recently visited West Nile. It used to be said that Amin's gangsters have taken over West Nile. That is not true. West Nile people are innocent. And they are engaged now in one of the most important tasks we have all to do. [sentence indistinct]

There are some incidents of insecurity. But Luwero is part of the Buganda Region, and yet there is peace in Rakai, peace in Masaka, peace in Mubende, peace in Mukono and those are all in Buganda. Now I will try to tell you this afternoon why there is some insecurity in Luwero District. But first let us analyze what is the cause of that insecurity.

During these last 2 years, some people decided to go to the bush and fight because elections had not been free and fair. If elections were not free and fair and if those who thought they were not free and fair wanted to fight, then how come that those people exist only in Luwero? If they exist in Luwero, are they really fighting on behalf of the UPC [Uganda People's Congress]? Because all the seats in Luwero were won by the [Democratic Party] did you want us to have the seats? Very well, in the next elections we shall have the seats. [Laughter] Meanwhile, I think if that is the reason, let them come out because we have now promised them: Next time, we shall have the seats.

Now, let me go back. In Luwero or some parts of Mpigi -- where we have incidents of insecurity -- are placed in Buganda. [as heard] There we have got gunmen who do not care of the lives on the people. When traders are going to the markets on a lorry, they put landmines of the roads, and the traders are blown up. When they know that an ambulance is going to a hospital they will put a landmine on the road and have the ambulance [words indistinct] will be blown up. They go from village to village killing innocent people. And they say they are fighting to liberate Uganda. Now who are these people? They are operating in Buganda. Are they Buganda? Amin's people are operating in Buganda. But Amin is not a Buganda. You have Ali Moses [Moses Ali, former Amin military commander in West Nile] operating in Buganda, and he is not a Buganda. You have (Yoweri Museveni) operating in Buganda. He is not a Muganda.

You have [name indistinct] operating in Buganda. He is not a Muganda. You have Francis (Bwengye) [former Democratic Party secretary general] is operating in Buganda. He is not a Muganda. [name indistinct] is Muganda and Rugamayo, Nabudere [names indistinct] (Ngobi) George (Magezi). Why are these people creating (?trouble) for Buganda?

This is the time for the people of Buganda to open their eyes. They are making two districts in Buganda to suffer for nothing. These are men who have been rejected in their own areas. Bwengye stood there and was defeated. Museveni [Uganda Freedom Movement leader] stood in Mbarara. He was defeated. (?Atoko) tried to stand in Lira. He could not raise 12 people. As for Ngobi, he was defeated in a primary election. These are rejected people who are causing trouble to the people living in Luwero District. For them it is a crime for a Muganda to be a chief in Luwero or in Mpigi. Are these the people that we can really (?seek to) lead this country? These are fascists. And we the people of UPC, we shall fight them.

I want to assure all the peace loving people of Uganda that it is a government for all the people of Uganda. We know that not every part of Uganda did vote for us. We know that even in those constitutencies we won there were other people who did not vote for us. But we shall work for everybody. We shall work for peace. We shall work for unity. We shall work in order to rebuild our country.

During the past year, they used to say it is the army which is indisciplined, which is killing the people. We have the Uganda Army in Western Region, in Northern Region, in Eastern Region and in Southern Region. It is one army under one command. It is governed under one law. And any person within the army that goes against that law is disciplined and there are provisions to discipline that person. And the hierarchy of the Uganda Armed Forces has never hesitated to punish people who go astray.

But then there is [word indistinct] and peace is all districts except in Luwero and parts of Mpigi. If it is the army that is causing insecurity, why is it that the army is not causing insecurity in Northern Region and in Western Region and in Eastern Region? There must be a different answer. And the answer? I have only given you a hint to it. There are people, rejected people, who want to instigate the army. And it is being published in overseas radios and newspapers. I listen to some of these radios. Some of the reports are just reported to me. These fellows, the rejected people, have killed troops and have acquired military uniforms.

Recently it was reported that one of these gangsters had claimed that he had killed 350 soldiers and that he had also collected a lot of military uniforms. These matters are reported overseas without those who are responsible for reporting the same taking any measures to find out whether they are true. Then they say the government, the UPC government, does not like foreign journalists.

They come in order to look for supporters of these gangsters. And where there is nothing, they will invent a story. Where there is nothing, they will try to cause trouble.

This very month we had two journalists. They were briefed thoroughly in the Ministry of Information as to what they should do when they were in Kampala. They decided not to heed what they were told. Then they went to one of the barracks in Kampala. They were arrested there. Now fellow citizens, there is no country in the world where a foreigner can just walk into a barracks and say he wants to interview the commanding officer. Whether it is in the USA, whether it is in Britain or in Germany or anywhere else, you can't just walk into an army barrakcs and pretend that you must talk to the commanding officer.

Now the question arises: Why are these people provoking us? We shall never understand. When the UPC (?pronounced) upon one policy they say we are wrong. When we did leave that one, we say what they wanted us to say, again they say we are wrong. Very well, we shall not say what they want. We know what the Ugandans, what the people of Uganda want. We shall do only what the people of Uganda want.

We have no quarrel with any country. We extend the hand of friendship to all the countries in the world. We beg them to allow us to live in peace.

When Amin was here killing millions of Ugandans, the countries which now say they are very concerned about human rights in Uganda did not utter one word. The fight against Amin was left to one poor country -- Tanzania.

This is our country. We don't have another country. If there is trouble here, many of our citizens will suffer. Therefore, we want peace. We cannot ourselves turn round to cause violence against our own people. If the UPC government were to do that, it will be the easiest way to make the UPC to lose the support of the people. We shall never make that mistake. We have resolved in our policy of reconciliation and no revenge, and we shall not change that policy. Our policy shall remain one of reconciliation and no revenge.

When anybody is killed in Uganda, that is part of UPC that has been killed. So after analyzing that situation, what do we have in front of us? We have achieved much in 2 years. We have controlled violence in a large part of the country. And I am sure we are going to control violence in some of the areas I have mentioned (?to you). What now remains is for us to rededicate ourselves to rebuild Uganda.

Some 10 years ago, Uganda alone would have raised enough money. We used to get money from coffee, from cotton and from copper. We used to get money from tea, from tourism and from tobacco. Now, we do not have tea, we do not have tobacco and we do not have toursim. We do not have copper. We do not have cotton. So out of six legs, we have only one left. So our first priority is to get the five legs into position as quickly as possible. Then if it is possible we must get other legs.

So I ask every person: I will ask every able Ugandan to go forward and produce anything you can produce. It is the responsibility of yourself and the responsibility of the government to sell that thing abroad. Once we begin to sell our produce abroad, we shall raise the money necessary for rebuilding the economy and social services of Uganda. Meanwhile, we have to be very careful with what we do with the little money we have.

When you find that what you are asking you are not receiving immediately, you now know the answer. [sentence indintinct]. There are very many demands on the government and we are trying. As we said during the campaign, we shall not let you down.

CHAD

FACTION PLEDGES TO FIGHT 'FOREIGN INTERVENTION'

AB280735 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 28 May 82

[Text] Lagos, May 28 (AFP) -- One of Chad's political-military factions condemned Thursday what it claimed was a request by Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei to Libya to send troops to Chad again.

A Chadian popular liberation movement splinter led by Batram Adoum Idriss said in a communique here that the group was ready to "take up arms" to fight "any foreign intervention" in Chad. It called for a negotiated solution to the "Chadian tragedy."

Some 10,000 Libyan troops left Chad last year after helping Mr Goukouni's regime fight against rebels in the north of the country. Mr Goukouni visited Tripoli over the past week, and had earlier threatened to call on an unspecified "outside force." But Libya has indicated it will not send into Chad a second time.

CONGO

COMMUNIQUE ON GABONESE PRESIDENT'S 1-DAY VISIT

AB271121 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 27 May 82

["Final communique" issued at the end of Gabonese President El-Hadj Omar Bongo's 1-day visit to the People's Republic of the Congo on 26 May]

[Text] His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the president of the Republic of Gabon and secretary general of the Gabonese Democratic Party [PDG], paid a working visit to the People's Republic of Congo on 26 May 1982. On his arrival at the Maya Maya Airport, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo and his delegation were warmly welcomed by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso and the people of Brazzaville. During the visit, Presidents El-Hadj Omar Bongo and Denis Sassou-Nguesso held fruitful discussions which touched essentially on bilateral relations as well as on current international issues. Present at the discussions on the Gabonese side were: Marcel Samili, grand chancellor of national orders; Martin Bongo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Jules Bourdes Ogouliguende, minister of state for labor and employment; Jean Francois Ntoutoume-Emane, personal minister counselor to the president in charge of civil and commercial aviation; Gen Jean-Boniface Assele, minister of public works and construction; Michel Etongo, permanent civilian undersecretary to the president; Fabia Onoo Etono, the assistant permanent undersecretary to the president; (Mrs Setoumbia Dawe Nsongu), principal private secretary to the president; (Dr Robert Ganou Boye), commanding medical officer and the general superintendent of military health; [name indistinct], director general of state protocol, special adviser to the president and general ambassador; [name indistinct], adviser to the president in charge of African and international affairs; Dan Osolu Etono, presidential spokesman; and His Excellency Oyoue, Gabon's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Congo.

On the Congolese side, we have Nze Pierre, member of the Political Bureau in charge of external relations and minister of foreign affairs; Bonificae Matingou, minister of tourism and environment; (Gerard Ditoungou), secretary general at the Presidency; (Ange Ebiam Angui), financial adviser at the Presidency; Col (Eka Dambala), military adviser at the Presidency; (Bongo Fulgence), adviser at the Presidency; Okio Alexis, the Congolese ambassador to the Republic of Gabon; [name indistinct], an adviser at the Presidency; (Col Mnongue Emmanuel), chief of Defense Staff.

President El-Hadj Omar Bongo repeated the Gabonese people's condolences to President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, to the presidential family and the entire Congolese people following the death of [name indistinct], the president's mother. President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, on behalf of his family and the Congolese people, thanked President El-Hadj Omar Bongo for the assistance and the words of comfort addressed to them by his Gabonese counterpart and the entire Gabonese people on this painful occasion.

The two heads of state expressed the hope that the bonds of cooperation and good neighborliness between their two countries will be further strengthened, and expressed their satisfaction with the results of the deliberations of the second Gabon-Congo grand joint commission. The two heads of state expressed their willingness to develop and intensify the bonds of cooperation recommended by them, and to see to it that the agreements undertaken between the two countries materialize.

Concerning the situation prevailing in Central Africa, the two countries once more expressed their concern over the Chad crisis, and expressed their ardent desire to see this brotherly country recover its unity and stability. They expressed their readiness to continue to help this brotherly country as well as the OAU to find a lasting solution to this painful problem. To this effect, they have suggested that a meeting of the heads of state of Central Africa be held in Brazzaville at a date to be fixed through the diplomatic channel. President El-Hadj Omar Bongo informed President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the resolutions of the deliberations on the creation of the economic community for Central African states.

The two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the smooth running of the deliberations, and expressed the hope to see the Libreville declaration -- within the framework of the plan of action -- and others effectively implemented.

Examining the situation prevailing in Africa, within the framework of the OAU, the two presidents expressed the hope that everything will be done to safeguard the respect of the continent and the achievements of the organization which has demonstrated its capacity to surmount the difficulties of strengthening the unity of the member states.

On Namibia, the two heads of state reaffirmed their support for the valiánt Namibian people, and have appealed to the contact group so that elections are organized under the auspices of the OAU and the United Nations for the immediate independence of Namibia. The elections should be based on the principle of one man, one vote.

Examining the international situation, the two presidents paid particular attention to current burning issues. They expressed their hope that all the areas of tension in the world become peaceful. The discussions between the two heads of states were held within an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding.

President El-Hadj Omar Bongo and his delegation thanked President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the people and the Government of the Congo for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded them.

Issued in Brazzaville on 26 May 1982

Signed for the People's Republic of the Congo by Col Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party, president of the republic, head of state and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and for the Gabonese delegation by El-Hadj Omar Bongo, the president of the republic and the founding secretary general of the PDG

GHANA

ASAMOAH LEADS DELEGATION TO HAVANA MEETING

AB271449 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] A three-man government delegation led by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, has left Accra to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting which opens in Havana, Cuba, on Monday. In an interview before the delegation left, Dr Asamoah said the conference is of particular importance to Ghana because it will afford her the chance of explaining the situation in the country to member states, and seek their support and solidarity for the revolution. Matters to be discussed at the 5-day conference include the new international economic order, world trade and how it affects developing countries. Others are disarmament, the southern African problem and the conflict in the Gulf area, the Falkland Islands, the Middle East, Chad and the Western Sahara.

CHANGES MADE IN FISCAL YEAR, INTEREST RATES

AB270954 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] The government had decided that the fiscal year should now be from 1 January to 31 December instead of 1 July to 30 June. Announcing this at a new conference in Accra yesterday, the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, said the present fiscal year militates against effective planning of the national economy. Moreover, limits of the present system do not allow for external borrowing by the entire public sector.

Outlining the revised 1981-1982 budget, Dr Botchway said under the revised budget, total expenditure is estimated at 2,195.7 million cedis. This is made up to 1,885.2 million cedis for recurrent expenditure and 310.5 million cedis for capital expenditure. He said the government views with concern the high and rapid growing expenditures on items such as drugs, school textbooks and institutional feeding programs. Tender boards responsible for the award of food contracts for government institutions are suspended. In the case of textbooks, the Ministry of Education is expected to employ its own staff in the procurement and distribution of textbooks instead of contractors.

Dr Botchway said every year the government spends huge subventions on parastatal agencies, some of which should be self-financed. It has therefore been decided that the criteria for granting subventions be examined. As a first step, no release of funds will be authorized in respect of any agency which fails to comply with the directives on the submission of nominal rolls as well as expenditure returns. The deadline for submission of the nominal rolls expired last March but government has risen extensions for those concerned to comply.

On the interest rate policy, the secretary said the efficacy of this in encouraging savings in the present national framework is open to question. He said a government committed to reducing inflation cannot hide under the cover of promoting savings to redistribute the total surplus in favor of the banking system and a few capitalists. He criticized the commercial banks for frustrating the stated aims of the high interest rate policy by refusing to accept new deposit accounts and/or limiting interest payments to only an arbitrarily bank-determined maximum savings.

Accordingly, the PNDC has decided to reverse the interest rates as follows: Bank rates are reduced from 19 and 1/2 percent to 10 and 1/2 percent. Treasury bills and the incomes rate from 18 and 1/2 percent to 9 and 1/2 percent and government advances from 19 and 1/2 percent to 10 and 1/2 percent. With the commercial banks, the borrowing rate the minimum on savings deposits is reduced from 18 percent to 8 percent and time or fixed deposits for between 3 and 6 months, 18 and 1/2 percent to 8 and 1/4 to 8 and 1/2 percent; and for 12 months from 19 percent to 9 percent. [sentence as heard]

On lending rates, those for purposes of small scale agricultural projects, that is up to 50,000 cedis from 20 percent to 8 percent and other agricultural purposes from 22 percent to 9 percent. House mortage up to 250,000 from 20 percent to 10 percent and in other house mortages from 22 percent to 14 percent. In the export sector, the reduction is from 22 percent to 9 percent and loans and advances covered by Bank of Ghana guarantees from 22 percent to 12 percent. All other loans and advances will now attract 14 percent interest instead of 25 and 1/2 percent. However, a penalty rate of 4 percent will be imposed on all loans and advances which are in default.

The PNDC has also decided that with immediate effect all settlements of outstanding trade debts or purchases of goods and services by traders, wholesalers, retailers, unincorporated enterprises or sole proprietorships, firms and limited liability companies should be effected by means of crossed checks or bankers's draft or payment orders issued by authorized banks in favor of the beneficiary or seller. This means that from now on, sellers of goods and services are not permitted by law to accept in settlement of their sales of goods and services including rental payments cash or currency notes and coins. This legal obligation and compulsory settlement by check applies with equal force to all public sector entities, including settlement by the central government, local authorities and all statutory boards and corporations and semipublic economic enterprises.

The banking habit among urban populations, in particular businessmen and women who in the past have had to contract a large proportion of their wholesale and retain business on cash basis. [as heard]

Dr Botchway said in the case of statutory and marketing boards, cocoa, coffee, shea nut and cola nut, farmers are to note that in fulfillment of the PNDC's pledge that the Chana Cocoa Marketing Board [GCMB] will no longer be permitted to issue chits to farmers in exchange for cocoa or any other produce purchased from them upcountry, satisfactory arrangements have been made between the Bank of Ghana and all licensed banks including the National Savings and Credit Fund and all post office savings banks to credit the new savings accounts of all cocoa farmers in receipt of crossed checks. These will be issued by the GCMB or any registered cooperative marketing society in settlement of cocoa or any other produce sold to the GCMB or any other marketing board or registered cooperative marketing society licensed by a statutory board to purchase for state licensed buying agents. Under these new arrangements, which in the case of cocoa farmers take effect from the commencement of the 1982-82 main crop season, no chits or currency notes or coins will be paid to the farmers except certified checks issued by marketing boards or cooperative societies or bankers' draft or payment orders issued by licensed banks. The Sale of Goods Act, the Currency Act and the Bank of Ghana Act are to be amended accordingly.

On the revised budget itself, Dr Botchway said this is made up of 1,260 million cedis of nondebt expenditure, 625.2 million cedis for debt servicing and capital expenditure of 310.5 million cedis out of which 150 million is for development expenditure. Total revenue for the first quarter is estimated at 1,110 million cedis. These are made up of 360 million cedis in direct tax, 600 million cedis in indirect taxes and 150 million cedis from lands tax revenue [word indistinct]. This means that under the period, an overall budget deficit of 1,085.7 million cedis is expected.

Dr Botchway reassured all Ghanaians that their 50-cedis note deposits will surely be paid back to them but this will be done in stages as already hinted by the PNDC chairman. Giving reasons for the government's withdrawal of the 50-cedi notes, the secretary said it was because of the high incidence of counterfeiting both locally and abroad and illegal holdings of the notes by Ghanaians which helped to create excess liquidity in the financial system. Dr Botchway welcomed suggestions from individuals as well as organisations and institutions to help the economic review committee evolve a better and sound economy.

Present at the news conference were members of the committee.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE RETURNS FROM VISIT TO SPAIN

AB272113 Paris AFP in French 1748 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Ahmed Sekou Toure, president of the Republic of Guinea, returned to Conakry on Thursday afternoon from Spain where he had just made a 4-day official visit, Conakry radio monitored at Dakar announced.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI, AUDU LEAVE TO ATTEND ECOWAS SUMMIT

AB271559 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 27 May 82

[Excerpt] President Shehu Shagari this afternoon left Lagos for Cotonou in the Republic of Benin to attend the summit meeting of heads of state of the ECOWAS. The president is accompanied to the 2-day summit beginning tomorrow by the minister of external affairs, Prof Ishaya Audu; Minister of National Planning Mrs Adenike Ebun Oyagbola and the minister of information, Malam Garuba Wushishi.

NNPC DISCOVERS 10TH OFFSHORE OILFIELD

AB271512 Lagos NAN in English 1455 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Lagos, 27 May (NAN) -- The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation [NNPC], has discovered oil in one of its offshore operations, according to a statement issued in Lagos today by the corporation.

The oil well, Afia, is located off the Cross River state. Drilling commenced in February this year, while testing was completed early this month.

According to the NNPC, the tests confirmed an initial production capacity of about 2,000 barrels of oil a day.

This discovery brings to ten the number of oil fields discovered offshore by the NNPC.

The NNPC also said that it would soon carry out tests to determine the suitability of the crude for lube production in the country.

ANGOLA

COMMUNIQUE ON TALKS DURING BONGO'S VISIT

AB261255 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 26 May 82

[Text] The People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Gabon yesterday in Luanda strongly condemned the persistent illegal occupation of Namibian territory by the racist regime of South Africa. In a communique published yesterday afternoon at the end of a few hours' visit to Angola by the Gabonese head of state, His Excellency El-Hadj Omar Bongo, at the invitation of his Angolan counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the two parties unequivocably condemned the Pretoria regime, its racial discrimination and apartheid policies, and reiterated their support for the heroic struggle of the South African people.

The two countries also reaffirmed their active support for the free exercise of the Namibian people's right to self-determination and demanded an immediate end to the occupation of Namibia and the urgent implementation of relevant resolutions on Namibia's independence, especially UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. Angola and Gabon demand the implementation of global and mandatory sanctions by the Security Council against the Pretoria regime in order to isolate it and force it to withdraw from Namibia and abolish its inhuman apartheid system.

Reviewing the political situation on the African Continent, the two parties expressed their concern in the face of the proliferation of conflicts between African countries. They supported peaceful solutions to these conflicts on the basis of the principles proclaimed in the OAU and UN Charters, as well as the need to make every effort to strengthen unity within the pan-African organization. In their communique, Angola and Gabon made an urgent appeal to their brothers to do everything to safeguard African unity.

Concerning the situation in Chad, the document reaffirms the need to implement UN and OAU resolutions which envisage a political solution to the conflict in order to establish a just peace throughout Chadian territory.

After deploring the situation in the Middle East, the two parties reiterated their support for the Palestinian people's struggle and for their legitimate representative -- the PLO -- to recover their national rights and establish an independent state. They expressed their conviction that a just and lasting peace cannot be achieved until Israel withdraws from occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem. The communique noted that the indispensable conditions have not as yet been met for any attempt to renew relations with the Zionist state, which not only still occupies the Syrian side of the Golan Heights but also maintains close relations with the racist and minority regime of South Africa.

Concerning economic relations between the two countries, Gabon and Angola opted for increased trade exchanges and economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation. In this context, the two parties signed a general cooperation agreement, an agreement for the creation of a joint cooperation commission and its internal regulations, a commercial agreement, an agreement on cooperation in the field of merchant marine, as well as an agreement on air transportation.

During President Bongo's visit to Angola, delegations of the two countries exchanged views on matters pertaining to relations and cooperation between Gabon and Angola as well as a global analysis of the international situation, especially on what is prevailing in southern Africa. During these talks, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the republic gave detailed information on the current situation in southern Africa, especially on the criminal aggression perpetrated by the racist and minority regime of South Africa against Angola's sovereignty and territorial integrity from the illegally occupied territory of Namibia, in absolute contempt for OAU and UN resolutions and the international community.

The Gabonese head of state, El-Hadj Omar Bongo, expressed his indignation in the face of aggression by South African forces, of which the People's Republic of Angola is the victim, and demanded their immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the sovereign territory of Angola, thus expressing his solidarity with the Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party and the Government of Angola for the defense of its territorial integrity and the consolidation of its national independence.

The Gabonese head of state expressed his gratitude to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, to the people and the Government of Angola for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded him and his delegation during their stay in the People's Republic of Angola.

BOTSWANA

PRESIDENT, PRC TU DELEGATION HOLD TALKS

CA271124 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 26 May 82

[Excerpt] A four-person delegation from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions which has been having talks with officials of the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions for the past week, conferred with the president, Dr Masire, this afternoon. The leader of the delegation, Mr Chen Yu, said in an interview afterwards that they told the president that they were impressed by the achievements made in Botswana since independence. They also briefed the president on the talks they had with officials of the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions. Their talks centered mainly on how to strengthen relations between the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

Mr Chen said that they also talked about political consciousness and workers education. He said most trade unions in the world are faced with the problems of unemployment. China had about 10 million people unemployed after the liberation of the country in 1949. He revealed that the All-China Federation of Trade Unions has extended an invitation to the Botswana Federation of Trade Unions to visit China.

MADAGASCAR

CLASHES IN SOUTH RESULT IN OVER 100 DEATHS

AB271640 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Antananarivo, 27 May (AFP) -- Clashes between security forces and villagers in southern Madagascar caused more than 100 deaths about two weeks ago, various sources said here today.

The fighting was centered on the village of Belamoty, around 150 kilometres (90 miles) north of Toliara, capital of the Indian Ocean island's southern province.

The sources differed on the reason for the incidents, which apparently occurred between paramilitary police and peasants looking for stolen cattle. Some political circles spoke of a "massacre" as a result of the police mistaking the peasants for a group of the bandits which frequent the region.

But one source said many of the dead, which he put at 110, belonged to the Monima movement of veteran nationalist leader Monja Jaona -- which is strong in the south and now technically banned -- and the extreme-left MFM (Party of Proletarian Power) of Manandafy Rakotonira, which backs the government.

No further details, official or unofficial, were available, and it was not certain whether there was any link with the riots in northern Madagascar which caused about 20 deaths at the beginning of March and which were attributed mainly to the country's precarious economic situation.

MOZAMBIQUE

FLEEING SWEDES REPORT STRONG GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

AB271945 Paris AFP in English 1910 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Harare, 27 May (AFP) -- Violence from the anti-government Mozambique Resistance Movement (MNR) forced 40 Swedish workers to flee western Mozambique to the safety of Zimbabwe's border city Mutare.

The Swedish engineers and construction supervisors were working near the Mozambican town of Manica on a Swedish Government project when a Portuguese member of their crew was shot dead Sunday [23 May] afternoon, said a member of the crew today in a phone interview from his hotel room in Mutare.

"We also heared explosions from machine guns and other weapons," he said. The Swedes were not satisfied with protection offered by Mozambican officials so they left for Zimbabwe, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) to the east.

They say that Manica is under prolonged attack from the MNR, the guerrilla group fighting against the Government of Mozambican President Samora Machel. The MNR is widely believed by Western diplomats to be backed by South Africa.

The MNR released British zoologist John Burlison Monday after holding him captive since December. He was questioned by Zimbabwean officials until this afternoon when he was released again. Officials of the British High Commission say that he is resting in Harare before flying back to the United Kingdom.

The Swedish workers, who were building a lumbermill and particle-board factory with 250 Mozambican workers, confirm reports that large areas of Mozambique are unsafe because of the marauding MNR bands. "We have not driven on the road from Chimoio (in central Mozambique) to Beira for a long time because it is too dangerous," said the Swedish worker. "We are waiting to see if we can return."

The MNR has concentrated on sabotaging transport and communications links in Mozambique and have made occasional attacks on the towns in western Mozambique. The MNR, estimated to have between 3,000 to 8,000 men in Mozambique, has also terrorized the peasants of the area, cutting off the ears of people who do not support them.

The anti-government group does not do much political crusading amongst the people, except to shout slogans against communism and tell the people not to support Mr Machel's government, according to peasant refugees in Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, a high official of Mr Machel's party met with the Soviet defense minister yesterday, according to a report by the Mozambique news agency, AIM. Marcelino dos Santos, the Frelimo party secretary for economic policy, also delivered a personal message from President Machel to Soviet head of state Leonid Brezhnev.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO OFFICIAL CLAIMS LARGE AREAS LIBERATED

AB260942 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 May 82

[Text] The head of state, Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, has received in audience (Edwin Amon Kongo), chief representative of SWAPO for West Africa. The SWAPO representative was accompanied to the president's office by Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, militant member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. After talks with the president of the republic, the SWAPO representative answered questions by journalists.

[Begin recording] [(Kongo), in English fading into French translation] As you know, I am the SWAPO representative in the region. I came to discuss problems of SWAPO's independence struggle. As you know, SWAPO's struggle -- Namibia's struggle -- is also Togo's struggle. Therefore I came to talk over this problem with his excellency the president of the Republic of Togo.

My comrade president, Sam Nujoma, sent me here to brief the president of the Togolese Republic on all developments in the situation in my country and on all efforts being made by the freedom fighters of Namibia and SWAPO to oust the racist representatives of South Africa. As you know, South Africa understands only one language -- the language of force. To negotiate, South Africa must be made to understand that SWAPO is ready and has the force to fight to the end. It is only then that South Africa will negotiate with SWAPO and get out of Namibia. We also talked about the 4 or 5 years of negotiations we have been holding with the five representatives of Western countries -- the United States, Britain, the FRG, France and Canada -- on the one hand, and representatives of racist South Africa on the other.

[Question] As you have just said, it is only through guerrilla activities that you can bring South Africa to talk about the settlement of the Namibian problem, and I think it is for this reason that SWAPO leaders met last February in Lagos. Can you tell us what the military situation is in Namibia?

[Answer] On the military situation in Namibia, I can assure you that the situation is in our favor. As you know, SWAPO launched a general offensive last month, and since last month we have liberated large areas where South Africa can no longer send troops. We have also liberated areas that South Africa can only reach by air. To come and attack us they have to send planes to bomb those areas. You will recall that 19 May SWAPO forces shot down a South African transport aircraft carrying troops and equipment.

[Question] Concerning the electoral system proposed by the Western contact group (?which presents) some complications [words indistinct] the UN resolution on Namibia?

[Answer] We told representatives of Western countries that SWAPO is not against a democratic electoral system. We simply told them that SWAPO is in favor of a more functional and democratic representation which can include all Namibians. We also told the Western countries to pressure their South African friends and relatives to accept a Geneva-type international conference so that the Western countries, SWAPO and South Africa could sit around the same table to discuss the problem and find a solution to the Namibian problem. [end recording]

SWAPO CONDEMNS PROPOSED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

AB272032 Luanda ANGOP in French 1925 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Luanda, 27 May (ANGOP) -- The Western contact group and South Africa are again busy remodeling their strategies in their effort to impose the two-count electoral system, the type with one man-one vote, one vote that counts twice, SWAPO stated in a communique published on Thursday in Luanda.

The communique stressed that this maneuver aims at insuring an irregular representation of the minority white settlers and the puppets of racist South Africa in the Constituent Assembly and, in the final analysis, of depriving SWAPO of the two-thirds majority required to adopt a constitution for the Independence of Namibia.

According to this Namibian nationalist organization, these new steps center around a procedure embodying the elimination of the first phase, which is yet to be resolved, and moving on to subsequent phases. In so doing, the communique stresses, the five (France, United States, Canada, Great Britain and the FRG) are trying to create the false impression that South Africa is ready both to start serious discussions on pending solutions and to make concessions.

SWAPO indicates that this procedure is formulated in a way so as to give more room for Pretoria's dilatory tactics while SWAPO is labeled as the belligerent and recalcitrant party in the negotiations.

SWAPO says the five and South Africa are trying to brush aside its proposal for convening a Geneva-type meeting which should discuss all pending issues and the most effective way of accelerating the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

Meanwhile, concludes the communique, Pretoria is embarking upon massive military preparations aimed at strengthening its destabilization plans and 'internal solution' against the 'frontline countries' especially against the Republic of Angola.

SOUTH AFRICA

SPECIAL ANTI-INSURGENCY FORCE OPERATES IN OWAMBO

MB270723 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] The South African police have lifted the veil on the activities of a special anti-insurgency task force which has already been operating for 3 years against SWAPO terrorists in Owambo. This unit killed 512 terrorists last year, while 12 of its members were killed. So far this year 120 terrorists have been killed and the unit has lost 5 men.

The unit has also captured large amounts of Russian-manufactured weapons. It has helped the security forces in South-West Africa to track down SWAPO terrorists who have infiltrated the Tsumeb area. The unit's commander, Brig Hans Dreyer, told our police correspondent that 9 of the 70 terrorists in the Tsumeb area are still on the run. The units have killed 18 of these infiltrators. The unit operates only in Owambo. The security forces are responsible for operations across the border.

KWA-NDEBELE TO BECOME INDEPENDENT STATE

MB271055 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Kwa-Ndebele is going to be an independent state. Chief Minister of Kwa-Ndebele, Simon Skosana said in an interview in Cape Town that his Cabinet has had talks with the South African Government and agreement has been reached that the homeland will become independent as soon as it has an effective infrastructure and can function as an economic entity. The first steps in this direction will be started as soon as possible, but no date for independence has yet been set.

Mr Skosana said help will be extended in the planning and development of a capital for Kwa-Ndebele, and an industrial growth point will be developed. The consolidation of Kwa-Ndebele will be speeded up so that the boundaries of the state can be finally determined.

ANC CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMB INCIDENTS

MB271042 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 May 82

[Text] Police headquarters in Pretoria has declined to comment on the allegation by the African National Congress that it was responsible for the bomb explosion in the Durban area last week. However, it says an extensive police investigation is continuing. In a communique issued in Addis Ababa, the African National Congress accepts responsibility for explosions at the building of the Natal Administration Board, and the Natal regional office of the Department of Colored Affairs. A police spokesman said everything possible was being done to track down those responsible for the blasts.

FOREIGN MINISTER REACTS TO JONATHAN'S REMARKS

MB271057 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0600 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Pik Botha has reacted to statements by Lesotho Prime Minister Dr Jonathan that South Africa is involved in attempts to destabilize Lesotho. Botha said in Cape Town that it had come to his attention that Dr Jonathan had once again considered it expedient to implicate South Africa in the problems which he is experiencing with renegade groups in his own country.

Botha said these groups have been active against Dr Jonathan's government since his party was defeated in Lesotho's general elections about 12 years ago and Dr Jonathan decided to suspend his country's constitution. The Government of Lesotho wants to blame South Africa for its own inability to control the opposition groups inside Lesotho.

PRESS WARNED NOT TO MISUSE FALKLANDS DISPUTE

LD270456 Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says South Africa is friendly with both Britain and Argentina, and wants to promote peace between these two countries. Addressing a public meeting in the western [as heard] town of Lichtenburg, Mr Botha said it was tragic that these two Western countries should be fighting while the Russian bear is watching where it could make its next move.

Mr Botha made an appeal that the Falklands dispute should not be misused to create ill will between South Africa and other countries. He said some newspapers had made objectionable attempts, on grounds of alleged diplomatic links, to involve South Africa in the Falklands war by allegations that she had supplied missiles to Argentina. Such speculative newspaper reports should not have been allowed by. If they would not act responsibly, legal steps would be taken against them.

SWAZILAND

MOZAMBIQUE OFFICIALS DISCUSS EXTRADITION TREATY

MB280914 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 28 May 82 p 20

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Text] A high-powered delegation from Mozambique began talks with the deputy prime minister, Senator Ben Nsibandze, officials of the DPM's office and the Swaziland police force yesterday on the subject of a draft extradition treaty.

The talks are a sequel to discussions held early last year at the port of Beira in Mozambique, which were attended by Senator Ben Nsibandze and a Swazi delegation.

The Mozambicans, led by the minister of the interior, Mr. Mariano Matsinha, a member of the Bureau of Frelimo, were received at a dinner function held at the Eveni guest village by Senator Nsibandze and the minister of education, Canon Siphetse Dlamini.

The team is today expected to call on the prime minister, Prince Mabandla, after which they will visit some of the major industries in the country. Among these will be the Swazi TV and radio factory at Matsapa, Libby's and the Mhlume sugar company.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE BEGINS 7-COUNTRY EUROPEAN TOUR IN BONN

For coverage of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's visit to West Germany, including t[illegible]s with Chancellor Schmidt, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the DAILY REPORT of 25 May. Reportage of his visits to six other European countries will be published in the appropriate country section in subsequent issues.

PRETORIA SAID TO FUND REBELLION IN MATABELELAND

CA260600 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 May 82

[Text] One Zimbabwean woman was killed last Tuesday when troops of the racist South African Army opened fire across the Limpopo River. This was disclosed yesterday by the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Comrade Munangagwa, when he addressed a gathering in (?Zhombe). He said at the same time, a group of 15 South African soldiers crossed the Limpopo into Zimbabwe and abducted a number of women who were later released. Comrade Munangagwa said the Pretoria regime is funding some people to start a rebellion in Matabeleland.